SAYONARA, ZETSUBOU-SENSEI

THE POWER OF NEGATIVE THINKING VOLUME 4

KOJI KUMETA

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SAYONARA, ZETSUBOU-SENSEI

The Power of Negative Thinking 4

Koji Kumeta

Translated and adapted by Joshua Weeks
Lettered by North Market Street Graphics

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The Power of Negative Thinking 4

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Sayonara, Zetsubou-sensei: The Power of Negative Thinking

Koji Kumeta

Volume 4
Shônen Magazine Comics

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS VOLUME

Nozomu, a man who loves peace and Stalin, is a veterinarian specializing in the care of carrier pigeons. One day, due to an injury, one of the carrier pigeons is unable to fly and Nozomu decides to become a carrier human in its place. He flies (on foot) to an address at Higashi-Jûjô but he throws in a dance for the addressee, a young executive with the Wind Underworld Dance Master, and his delivery is rejected.

Nozomu is told that if he holds his breath and does an underwater yoga position, the guy will receive the message, so there seems to be a smell of religion about this. When Nozomu tries to back out of it, saying it's a bit much, he's forced to take ten quizzes. The guy tells him to say the phrase "I'll do ascetic training" ten times, so it does, in fact, smell of religion. When Nozomu hurriedly runs out and jumps into a taxi, the driver asks him, "Dai Sakkai is a copy of Tenchûsatsu, isn't it? Isn't it?" While the driver is trying to get Nozomu to agree with him, and Nozomu is at a loss as to what to do, a Century with a black paint job rear-ends them.

Honorifics Explained

Throughout the Kodansha Comics books, you will find Japanese honorifics left intact in the translations. For those not familiar with how the Japanese use honorifics and, more important, how they differ from American honorifics, we present this brief overview.

Politeness has always been a critical facet of Japanese culture. Ever since the feudal era, when Japan was a highly stratified society, use of honorifics—which can be defined as polite speech that indicates relationship or status—has played an essential role in the Japanese language. When addressing someone in Japanese, an honorific usually takes the form of a suffix attached to one's name (example: "Asuna-san"), is used as a title at the end of one's name, or appears in place of the name itself (example: "Negi-sensei," or simply "Sensei!").

Honorifics can be expressions of respect or endearment. In the context of manga and anime, honorifics give insight into the nature of the relationship between characters. Many English translations leave out these important honorifics and therefore distort the feel of the original Japanese. Because Japanese honorifics contain nuances that English honorifics lack, it is our policy at Kodansha Comics not to translate them. Here, instead, is a guide to some of the honorifics you may encounter in Kodansha Comics books.

-san: This is the most common honorific and is equivalent to Mr., Miss, Ms., or Mrs. It is the all-purpose honorific and can be used in any situation where politeness is required.

-sama: This is one level higher than "-san" and is used to confer great respect.

-dono: This comes from the word "tono," which means "lord." It is an even higher level than "-sama" and confers utmost respect.

-chan: This is used to express endearment, mostly toward girls. It is also used for little boys, pets, and even among lovers. It gives a sense of childish cuteness.

Bozu: This is an informal way to refer to a boy, similar to the English terms "kid" and "squirt."

Sempai/

Senpai: This title suggests that the addressee is one's senior in a group or organization. It is most often used in a school setting, where underclassmen refer to their upperclassmen as "sempai." It can also be used in the workplace, such as when a newer employee addresses an employee who has seniority in the company.

Kohai: This is the opposite of "sempai" and is used toward underclassmen in school or newcomers in the workplace. It connotes that the addressee is of a lower station.

Sensei: Literally meaning "one who has come before," this title is used for teachers, doctors, or masters of any profession or art.

-[blank]: This is usually forgotten in these lists, but it is perhaps the most significant difference between Japanese and English. The lack of honorific means that the speaker has permission to address the person in a very intimate way. Usually, only family, spouses, or very close friends have this kind of permission. Known as *yobisute,* it can be gratifying when someone who has earned the intimacy starts to call one by one's name without an honorific. But when that intimacy hasn't been earned, it can be very insulting.

Koji Kumeta

SAYONARA, ZETSUBOU-SENSEI 4

The Power of Negative Thinking

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The stories, characters, and incidents mentioned in this publication are entirely fictional.
Originally published in 2006 in *Weekly Shônen Magazine* #1 to #13 (no story was printed in #12).

Cast of Characters

ATTENDANCE LIST
CLASS 2-F

KAGER USAI

TEACHER-IN-CHARGE
NOZOMU ITOSHIKI
SUPER-NEGATIVE MAN

NAMI HITOU
ORDINARY GIRL

ABIRU KOBUSHI
TAIL FETISH GIRL—THOUGHT TO BE VICTIM OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

MERU OTONASHI
POISON-TONGUE GIRL

JUN KUTOU
MASTER STORYTELLER

HARUMI FUJIYOSHI
EAR FETISH
ADDICTED TO COSPLAY

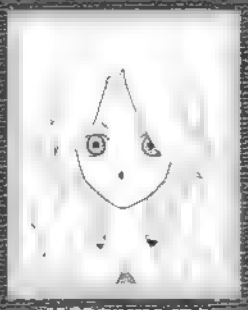
KIRI KOMORI
NEKONOMI GIRL

CHIRI KITSU
PSYCHOANALYSIS PSYCHE GIRL

TARO MARIA SEKUTSU
ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT, REFUGEE GIRL

KOTONON
IDOL

MATOI TSUNETSUKI
SUPER-LOVE
STALKER GIRL



KAERE KIMURA
BILINGUAL GIRL

KAFUKA FUURA
SUPER-POSITIVE GIRL

THE THROWAWAY BRONZE
ラーメン
一日限定20杯
たった今終了しました。
特製岩塩ラーメン
限定
ラーメンコキケ

CHAPTER 31

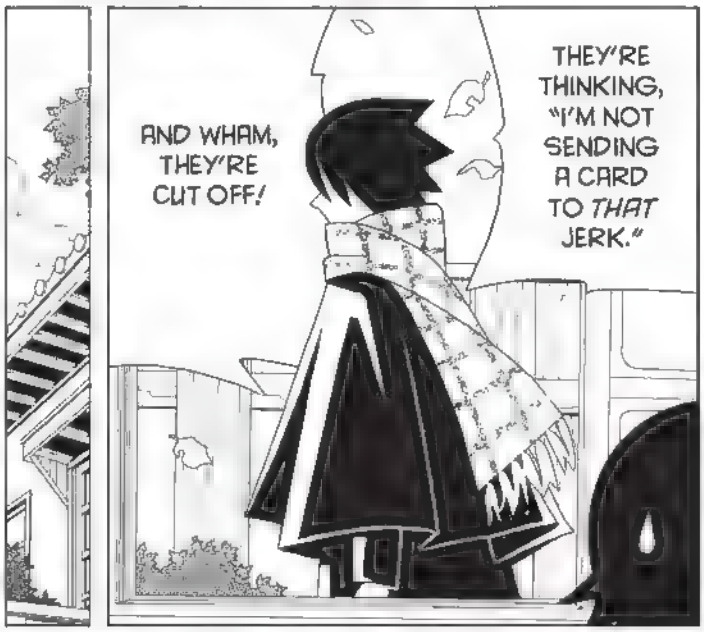
Hiroko Okabe
Shita-meguro, Tokyo
2006
NOW
SO, NOW...
OKAY.
...SO I WON'T HAVE TO SEND 'EM CARDS.
I'LL TAKE THESE PEOPLE OFF THE LIST...
090
Seiko Tochihara
Yoshio Hirata
Satoko Suzuki
SO THAT'S HOW YOU ARE.

THAT'S HOW YOU'LL CUT ME OFF, TOO!
SENSEI, WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
I SENSED SOMETHING BAD HAPPENING, AND CAME OVER.
SO THAT'S HOW YOU MERCILESSLY DISCARD PEOPLE!
WHAT KIND OF PERSON ARE YOU?
NO... IT'S NOT WHAT YOU THINK....
BESIDES, I'LL SEND YOU A CARD FOR SURE.

NOW THAT THE END OF THE YEAR IS UPON US...
...PEOPLE ARE CUTTING OFF OTHERS ALL OVER THE COUNTRY!

ミカカ DoCaMo
ミカカ DoCaMo
FUMA

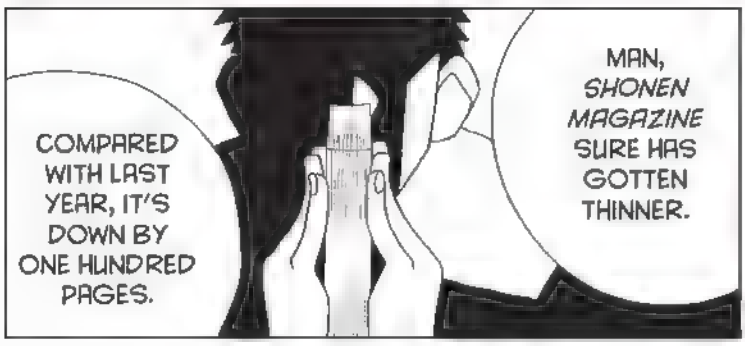
GLANCE


AND WHAM, THEY'RE CUT OFF!
THEY'RE THINKING, "I'M NOT SENDING A CARD TO THAT JERK."

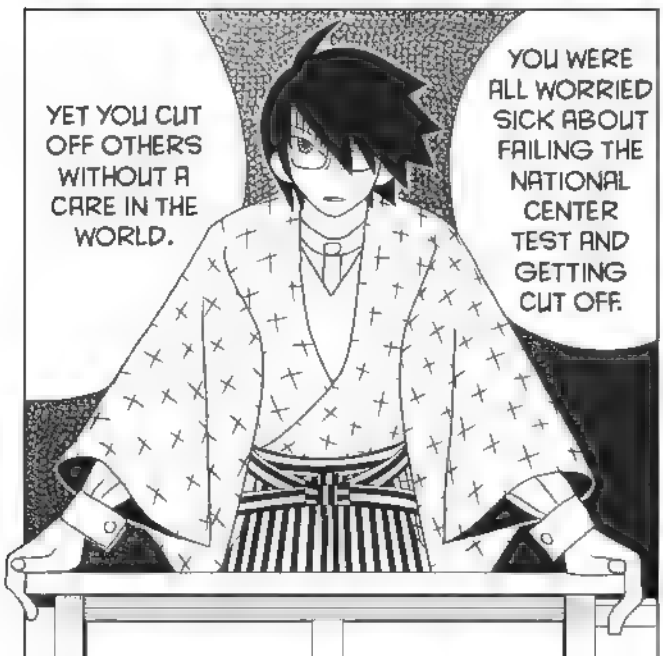
...ARE SENT TO RUIDA'S TAVERN WHEN YOU DON'T WANT THEM ANY LONGER!
GAME CHARACTERS YOU USED TO CARE ABOUT...

WHEN PEOPLE BUY A NEW CELL PHONE...
...THEY'LL SAY, "I'M NOT SAVING THAT JERK'S ADDRESS," AND THEY'LL CUT 'EM OUT.
はい
メニュー

SHÔNEN MAGAZINE EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT CUT-OFF MEETING



THE PRICE WILL BE UNCHANGED, AND WE'LL MAKE A HELL OF A PROFIT!
マガジン
それでも豪華23大漫画!!
AT THIS RATE, BY NEXT YEAR THE WHOLE THING'LL JUST BE 144 PAGES!


YET YOU CUT OFF OTHERS WITHOUT A CARE IN THE WORLD.
YOU WERE ALL WORRIED SICK ABOUT FAILING THE NATIONAL CENTER TEST AND GETTING CUT OFF.

• NOT GETTING INVITED TO BIRTHDAY PARTIES
• NOT GETTING NOTICES WHEN PEOPLE MOVE
• BEING LEFT OUT IN GROUP EXERCISES
THAT'S HOW I'VE ALWAYS BEEN CUT OFF!
IT'S JUST...
THERE'S NO WAY THAT YOU'RE BEING CUT OFF LIKE THAT.
...THAT YOU'RE WHAT'S CALLED A "FREE AGENT."
WHY WOULD NOT GETTING NEW YEAR'S CARDS MAKE ME A FREE AGENT?
THIS WAY, YOU'RE FREE TO SOLICIT OFFERS FOR NEW CONTRACTS.

- LOVE IS CUT OFF FOR GUYS WHO EARN LESS THAN 3,000,000¥ A YEAR.
- A NEW SUMO WRESTLER THAT'S UNDER 173 CM (5'8") TALL
- FOR π (3.1415...), THE NUMBERS AFTER 1415 ARE CUT OFF
- ANY UNDER RANK SEVENTEEN, IN JL
- THE LIBERAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY'S ANTI-KOIZUMI PEOPLE
- HONEST MEN
- PRODUCT REPLACEMENTS AT CONVENIENCE STORES
- THE SOLDIERS WHO WERE BETRAYED BY COLONEL MUSKA
- JAPAN AS A PERMANENT MEMBER OF THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL
- A MANGA MAGAZINE WITH A CIRCULATION OF UNDER 300,000
- USING EIGHT STEEL RODS IN THE STEEL FRAME INSTEAD OF TEN

ANYHOW, THE WORLD'S FULL OF CUT-OFF POINTS.

WHO SAID ANYTHING ABOUT A "CUT-OFF POINT"?!

I DON'T THINK THERE HAS TO BE A CUT-OFF POINT FOR HAIR.

WE'RE THE NUMBER FOURS AND BELOW WHO ARE ROUNDED DOWN!

...AREN'T NUMBER FIVE AND ABOVE, THAT ARE ROUNDED UP IN MATH!

IN ANY CASE...

...PEOPLE LIKE YOU AND ME...

LOSER!

LOSER!

THE PEOPLE UP IN THE ROPPONGI HILLS COMPLEX LOOK DOWN ON US AND CURSE, "LOSER, LOSER!"

...BECAUSE WE'RE ON THE LOSING SIDE.

WE'RE SOCIETY'S DISCARDS...

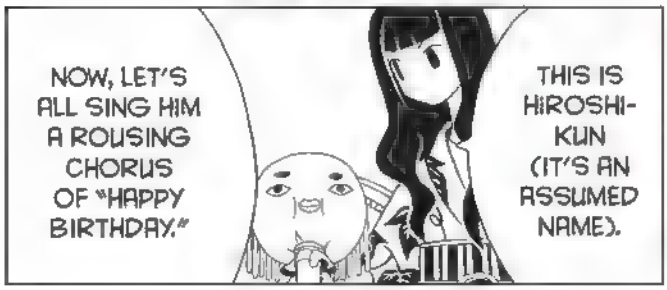
I'M IN DESPAIR WITH A SOCIETY THAT CUTS US OUT!

I'M IN DESPAIR!

12月7日
誕生日
AN INVITATION TO A BIRTHDAY PARTY!
WHOA!
YOU'VE GOT MAIL.
YOUR SENSEI HAS JUST MOVED TO THE "NUMBER FIVE AND UP" SIDE.
WELL, BYE, Y'ALL.
I GUESS I WASN'T CUT OFF AFTER ALL.
BUT WHOSE CAN IT BE?
I'VE BEEN INVITED TO A BIRTHDAY PARTY! THE VERY THOUGHT OF IT!
OF COURSE IT'S NOT MY BIRTHDAY.
TODAY'S NOT YOUR BIRTHDAY.
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
WELCOME! THANK YOU ALL SO MUCH FOR COMING.

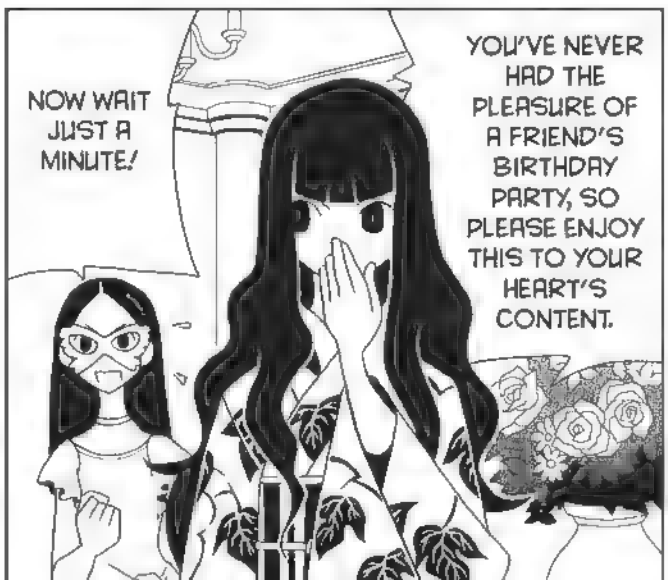
WE'RE CELEBRATING THE BIRTHDAY OF A MAKE-BELIEVE PERSON.
THIS IS A GATHERING FOR THOSE WHO DON'T GET INVITED TO BIRTHDAY PARTIES.

...FOR THOSE WHOSE LONELINESS CAN'T BE IGNORED.
IT'S A SORT OF "INTERVENTION"...
WHAT THE HECK IS THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?!


NOW, LET'S ALL SING HIM A ROUSING CHORUS OF "HAPPY BIRTHDAY."
THIS IS HIROSHI-KUN (IT'S AN ASSUMED NAME).

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU

BY THE WAY, TO PROTECT YOUR PRIVACY, PLEASE PUT ON YOUR MASKS.


NOW WAIT JUST A MINUTE!
YOU'VE NEVER HAD THE PLEASURE OF A FRIEND'S BIRTHDAY PARTY, SO PLEASE ENJOY THIS TO YOUR HEART'S CONTENT.

...BUT I NOTICE THERE ARE QUITE A LOT OF PEOPLE SO PITIABLE, THEY DIDN'T EVEN GET INVITED HERE.
I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU GUYS ARE...

...BUT YOU WEREN'T INVITED, WERE YOU?
YOU MAY HAVE BEEN TO ONE...
I'VE BEEN TO A FRIEND'S BIRTHDAY PARTY BEFORE!

WHAT DID YOU *EXPECT* THEM TO SAY TO YOUR FACE?
...THEY TOLD ME THEY'D FORGOTTEN TO SEND ME AN INVITATION!
YOU'RE WRONG! WHEN I SHOWED UP...

HIDING BEHIND THESE MASKS, YOU'RE ALL EVEN MORE MERCILESS THAN USUAL, AREN'T YOU?
OOOH, *BURN.*
GOING TO A PARTY UNINVITED IS EVEN *MORE* PAINFUL.

AREN'T YOU JUST RUBBING THEIR NOSES IN IT?
• A WEDDING RECEPTION WITH A MAKE-BELIEVE BRIDE AND GROOM FOR THOSE WHO WEREN'T INVITED TO THE WEDDING
• AN ALUMNI REUNION FOR THOSE WHO WEREN'T INVITED
• A MADE-UP AWARD CEREMONY FOR MANGA ARTISTS WHO WEREN'T INVITED TO THE REAL AWARD CEREMONY
HERE ARE SOME OTHER EVENTS I'M PLANNING TO PUT ON!

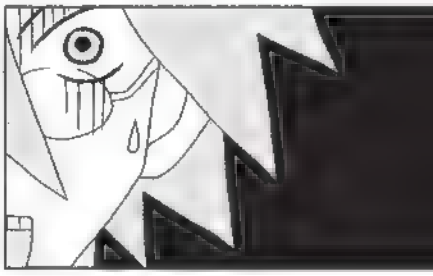
THIS TURNED OUT BETTER THAN I COULD EVER HAVE IMAGINED.
WHAT A DELIGHT-FUL PARTY.

LOOK AT THAT. THERE ARE CUT-OFF FREE AGENTS OVER THERE, TOO.

TEACHER, WHAT A COINCIDENCE MEETING YOU HERE.
TRUDGE
とぼとぼ
TRUDGE
WHAT WAS THAT ALL FOR, ANY-WAY...?

May I cut off all ties with my mother -Sayaka
RETRACTED
May my elder brother's wife, Hiroko, get out of the kotoshiyo home and cut off all relations with them
May I divorce my husband as soon as possible -the wife
May I break off with Yama-chan -Shizu
May I break away from that vindictive Kosaku Maeda
May I break off with Tetsuya -Keiko

THAT'S 'CAUSE IT'S THE TEMPLE FOR DIVORCES!



OH, MAJIRU, THERE YOU ARE.

...BUT THAT'S JUST TOO SCARY!
I SUPPOSE YOU COULD THINK OF IT AS A CUT-OFF...

SHH...
YOU'RE CLEARLY UNAWARE THAT YOUR PARENTS DISCARDED YOU.

HOW PRESUMPTUOUS OF YOU TO THINK THIS ALL HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU.

YOU'RE THE GOD WHO TAKES CARE OF DISCARDS.
THAT'S WHY YOU'RE TAKING CARE OF HIM, SENSEI.

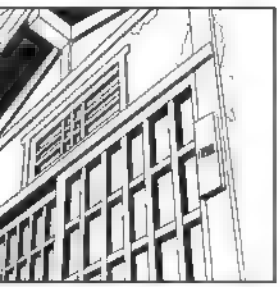
IF THERE'S A GOD WHO DISCARDS THINGS, THERE'S A GOD WHO TAKES CARE OF DISCARDS.

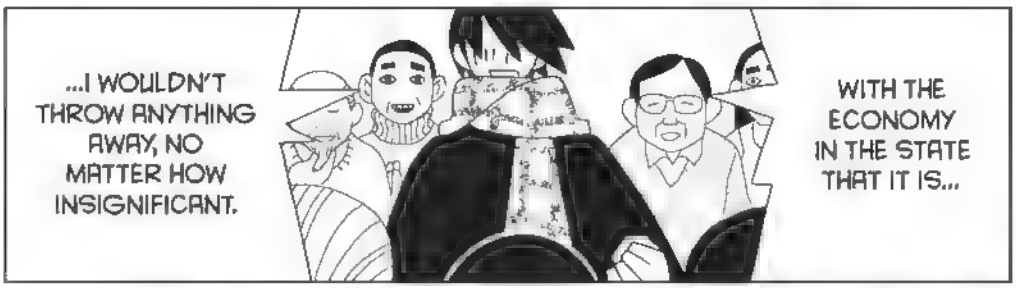
A YOUNG MAN LIKE THAT, TAKING CARE OF A RELATIVE'S BOY.
HOW ADMIRABLE.
CLAP
パチ
CLAP
パチ
CLAP
パチ
CLAP
パチ
CLAP
CLAP
HUH??

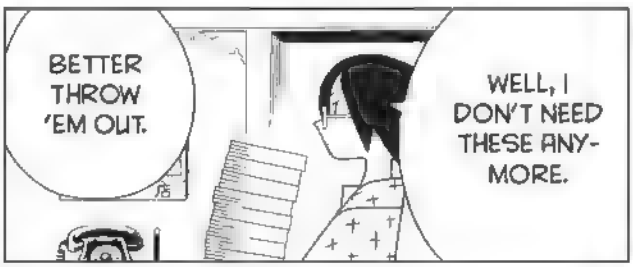
OF COURSE NOT! WHAT DO YOU EXPECT?

HEH
ふ

HUH?
PLEASE DON'T LEAVE THAT POOR LITTLE BOY OUT IN THE COLD.




...I WOULDN'T THROW ANYTHING AWAY, NO MATTER HOW INSIGNIFICANT.
WITH THE ECONOMY IN THE STATE THAT IT IS...


BETTER THROW 'EM OUT.
WELL, I DON'T NEED THESE ANY-MORE.

HERO MAGAZINE
HERO MAGAZINE
HERO MAGAZINE

...IT ISN'T RIGHT TO CAST THINGS OUT.
BUT...

THESE TOO...

I'LL KEEP THEM FOR NOW...
THESE TOO...

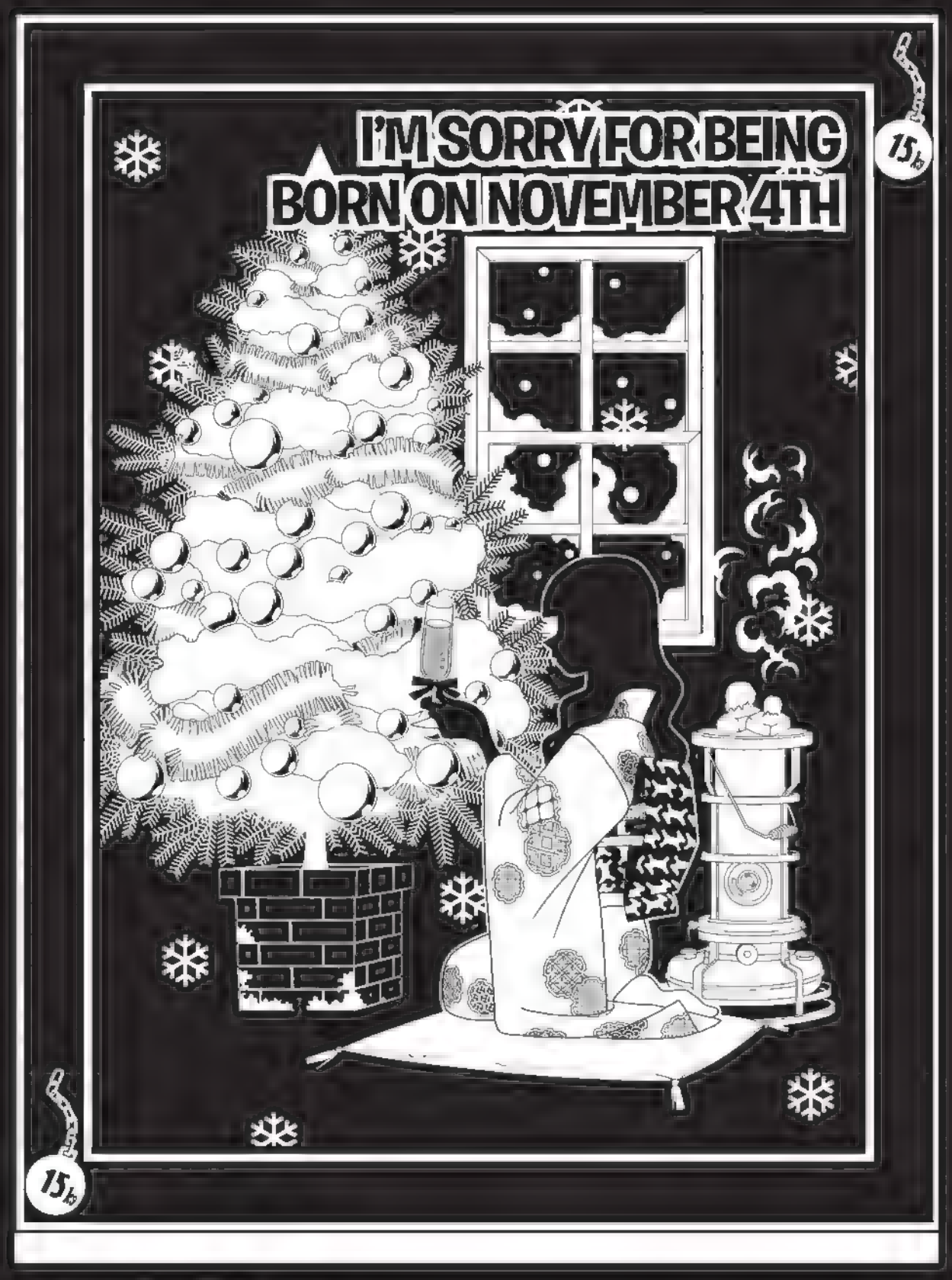
IF I BUY NEW ONES, I WON'T NEED THESE.
SAME WITH THESE.

I'D BETTER HOLD ONTO THEM FOR NOW...

NO...IT ISN'T RIGHT TO CAST THINGS OUT.

アスベスト
エチゼンクラゲ
トランスマン
A
スーパー
バイオ
らうめん
太藏
TAB
PC
スライム
TV帝京
I'M REPORTING LIVE FROM THE "GARBAGE MANSION" THAT HAS CAUSED SO MUCH TROUBLE RECENTLY.
YOUR NEIGHBORS HAVE FILED A COMPLAINT!
WE'RE FROM THE LOCAL WARD OFFICE!
...IS BECAUSE OF YOU GUYS!
THE REASON I HAVE ALL THESE THINGS...
ぬっ
OH
AHA! IT SEEMS THAT THE OWNER IS EMERGING...
NOT BEING ABLE TO CUT THINGS OFF IS A PROBLEM, TOO.
...AND MY EX-EX-BOY-FRIEND, TOO.
I'M ON SUPER-GOOD TERMS WITH MY EX-BOY-FRIEND...
WHAT A PAIN.

...THE PROBLEM IS HOW I'M SUPPOSED TO HANDLE THE ALIMONY WHEN I LEAVE HER.
Y'KNOW, IT'S NOT SO MUCH AN ISSUE OF CUTTING THINGS OFF...
PUB
スナック新宿



CHAPTER 32

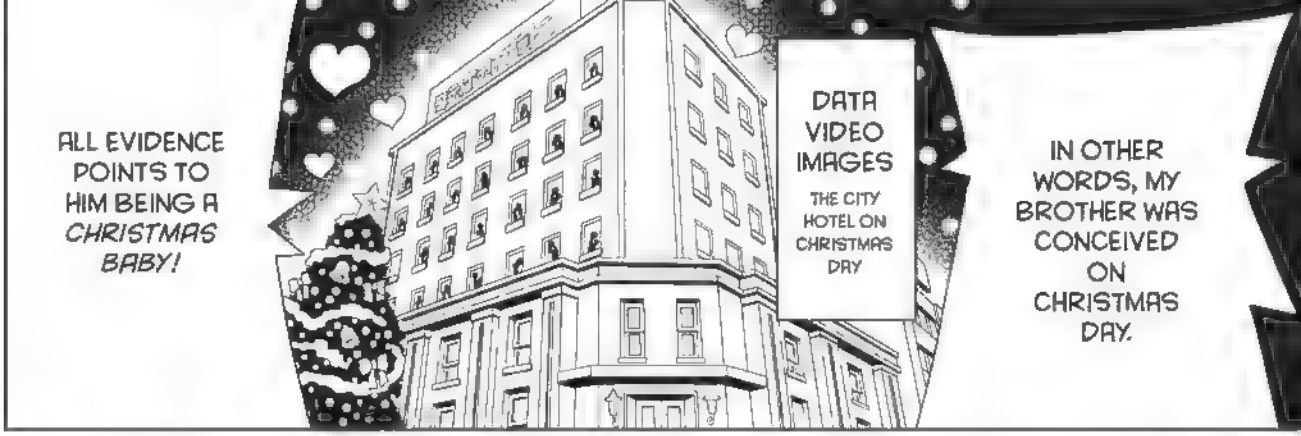
MERRY CHRISTMAS
鈴木オート
*WHEN LOOKING AT CHRISTMAS LIGHTS, MAKE SURE YOU BRIGHTEN THE ROOM LIGHTS FIRST.
WHERE'S SENSEI?
HE'S NOT HERE.
I'LL GO GET HIM.
I'LL GO, TOO.
WHY AREN'T YOU AT THE CHRISTMAS PARTY?
EXCUSE US FOR COMING IN!

CHRISTMAS?
WHAT'S THAT?
災
UM...ER... I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT IT.
WE TOLD YOU WE'RE HAVING A CHRISTMAS PARTY TODAY, DIDN'T WE?

IF I DON'T KNOW, I DON'T KNOW!
FWUP
がばっ
I DON'T KNOW WHAT CHRISTMAS IS!

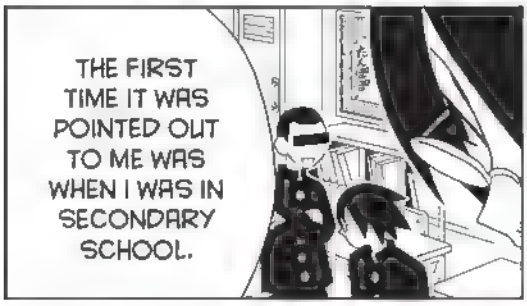
I'M NOT JOKING!
HEY, DON'T JOKE AROUND WITH US!
災

MY BROTHER TOTALLY IGNORES AND AVOIDS CHRISTMAS...
...BUT HE HAS A GOOD REASON TO.
すぼっ HIDE
DON'T TELL THEM!
OH, HI, RIN-CHAN.
WHAT'S THE REASON?
THE TRUTH IS...
11月
火 水 木 金 土
1 2 3 4 5
9 10 11 12
16 17 18 19
23 24 25 26
...MY BROTHER'S BIRTHDAY
...IS NOVEMBER 4TH.
ふり皮ッ医院
...TEN MONTHS AND TEN DAYS.
COUNT BACK...
ブロック BLOCK
WHAT'S THAT GOT TO DO WITH IT?


ALL EVIDENCE POINTS TO HIM BEING A CHRISTMAS BABY!
DATA VIDEO IMAGES
THE CITY HOTEL ON CHRISTMAS DAY
IN OTHER WORDS, MY BROTHER WAS CONCEIVED ON CHRISTMAS DAY.

BUT ISN'T THERE A MARGIN OF ERROR?
HAH THEY DID IT ON CHRISTMAS

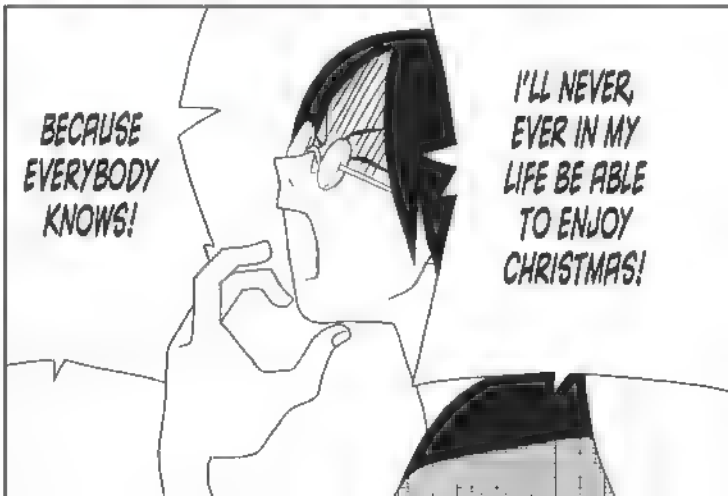
I TOLD YOU NOT TO TELL!
SO THAT'S WHAT IT WAS.


THE FIRST TIME IT WAS POINTED OUT TO ME WAS WHEN I WAS IN SECONDARY SCHOOL.

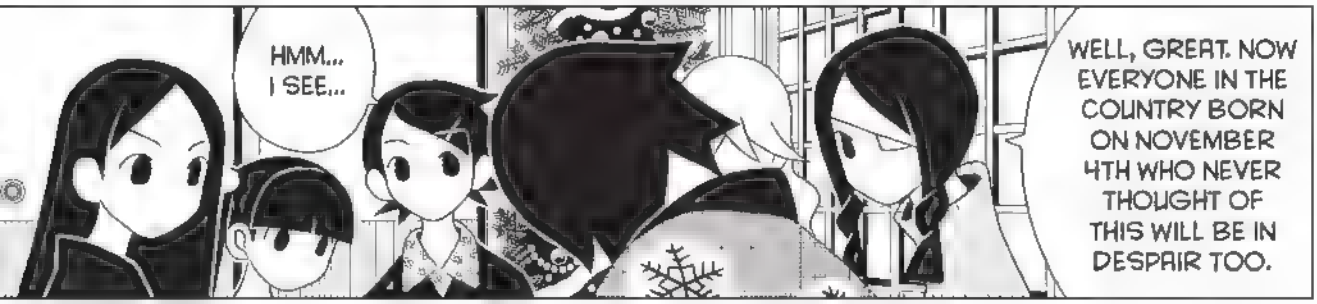
IT'LL BE QUICKER IF WE JUST HAVE THE PARTY AT SENSEI'S HOUSE.
HEY! COME IN!

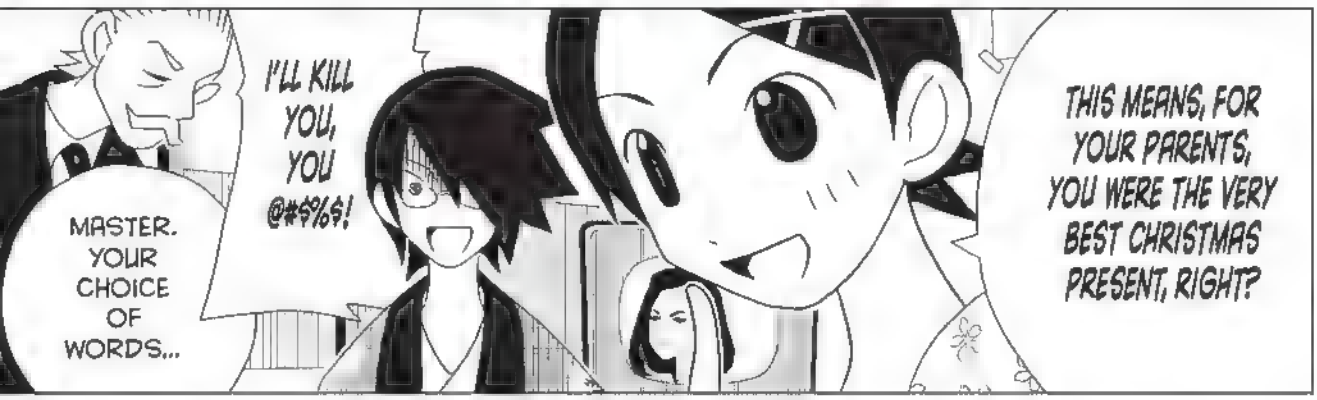
...DON'TCHA THINK YOU WERE MADE BECAUSE YOUR PARENTS @#$%$# ON CHRISTMAS?
HEY, ZETSUBOU, IF YA COUNT BACK THE DAYS FROM YOUR BIRTHDAY...

...THE THOUGHT ALWAYS CROSSES MY MIND.
GO ゴー
GO ゴー
EVEN IF I TRY TO FORGET AND HAVE A GOOD TIME...
SIGH ふう

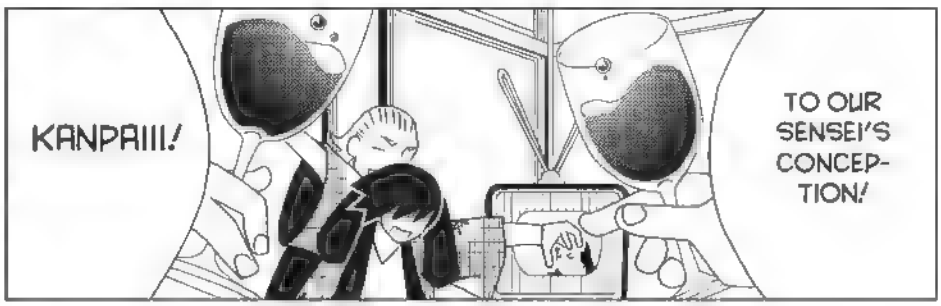

BECAUSE EVERYBODY KNOWS!
I'LL NEVER, EVER IN MY LIFE BE ABLE TO ENJOY CHRISTMAS!

I'M IN DESPAIR FOR BEING BORN ON NOVEMBER 4TH!
I'M IN DESPAIR!


HMM... I SEE...
WELL, GREAT. NOW EVERYONE IN THE COUNTRY BORN ON NOVEMBER 4TH WHO NEVER THOUGHT OF THIS WILL BE IN DESPAIR TOO.


MASTER. YOUR CHOICE OF WORDS...
I'LL KILL YOU, YOU @#$%$!
THIS MEANS, FOR YOUR PARENTS, YOU WERE THE VERY BEST CHRISTMAS PRESENT, RIGHT?

EXCUSE US...
KNOCK
KNOCK
KNOCK


KANPAIII!
TO OUR SENSEI'S CONCEP-TION!

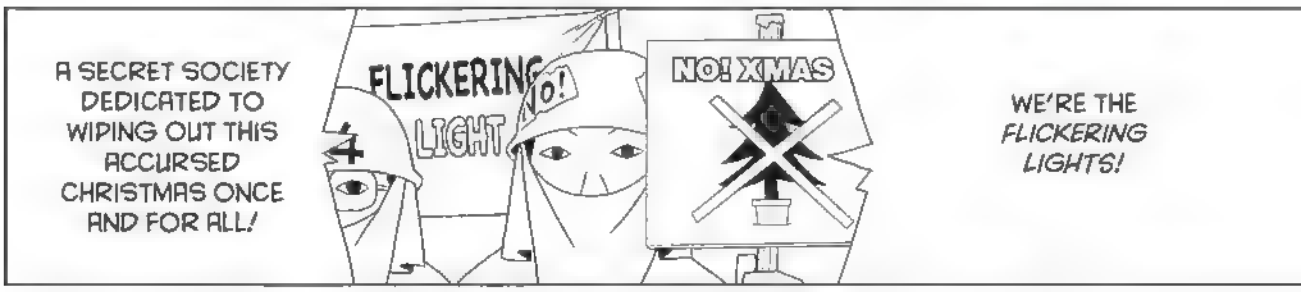
WHO ARE YOU GUYS?

THUMP
どどか
THUMP
THUMP
どか
11.4
4
EXCUSE ME...

...ON NOVEMBER 4TH.
11.4
11.4
WE, TOO, WERE BORN...

...CAN FEEL THE HURT WITHIN OUR HEARTS.
1
ONLY THOSE WHO WERE BORN ON OUR BIRTHDAY...

YES.
11.4
YOU, TOO?!


A SECRET SOCIETY DEDICATED TO WIPING OUT THIS ACCURSED CHRISTMAS ONCE AND FOR ALL!
4
FLICKERING LIGHT
NO!
NO! XMAS
WE'RE THE FLICKERING LIGHTS!

TAKE SOME TIME TO THINK ABOUT IT, WHY DON'T YOU!
YES!
ZETSUBOU-SENSEI, WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN US IN OUR STRUGGLE?

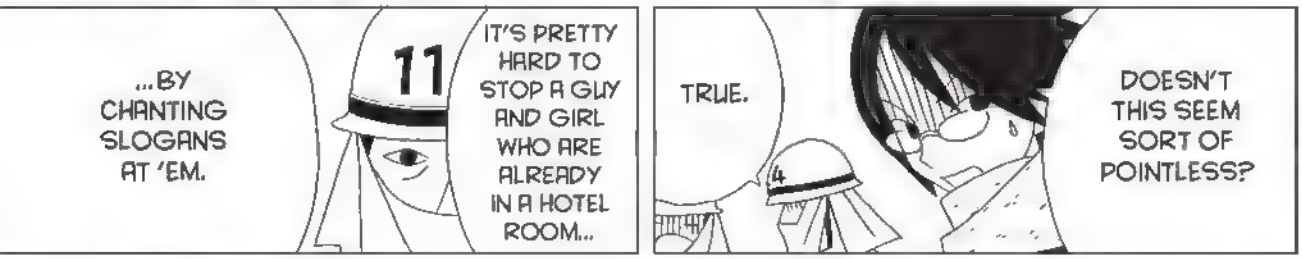
ON CHRISTMAS...
SO, ALL THESE PEOPLE, TOO...

BUT SO FAR, WE'VE RECEIVED NO REPLIES.
BOA
TOSHIYUKI NISHIDA
YOSHIYUKI TOMINO
DAISUKE ASAKURA
JUN NAGURA
AKIMASA HARAGUCHI
SHINYA MIYAMOTO
KOSHIRO TAKE
LUIS FIGO
SHINOBU KANDORI
YUKO MIZUTANI
AKIRA EMOTO
AKIRA KOBAHASHI
MARI AMACHI
YUKIHIKO TSUTSUMI
TAKAO SAITO
11
BY THE WAY, WE'VE EXTENDED AN INVITATION OF MEMBERSHIP TO SOME FAMOUS PEOPLE WITH BIRTHDAYS AROUND NOVEMBER 4TH.

OH YEAH
UNNH
OH YEAH
OH BABY
HOTEL REVOLUTION
OHH...
YES! YES!
OH BABY
UNNH
"REST": 4,000¥~
OVERNIGHT STAY: 8,000¥~
空室
WE CAN'T ALLOW MORE SAD WRETCHES LIKE OURSELVES TO BE BORN!
ガラッ
ANYHOW, LET'S GO OUT AND USE SOME FORCE!

COULD YOU PICK ANOTHER DAY TO MAKE ONE!
NO! XMAS
11.4
11.4
HEY, YOU THERE! YOUR KIDS WILL BE DELINQUENTS!

.....
HOTEL TEAR-COLORED
GO SING SOME KARAOKE AND PLAY HARD-TO-GET!
STOP YOUR ACTIVITIES AT ONCE!
PEOPLE WILL FIGURE IT OUT!

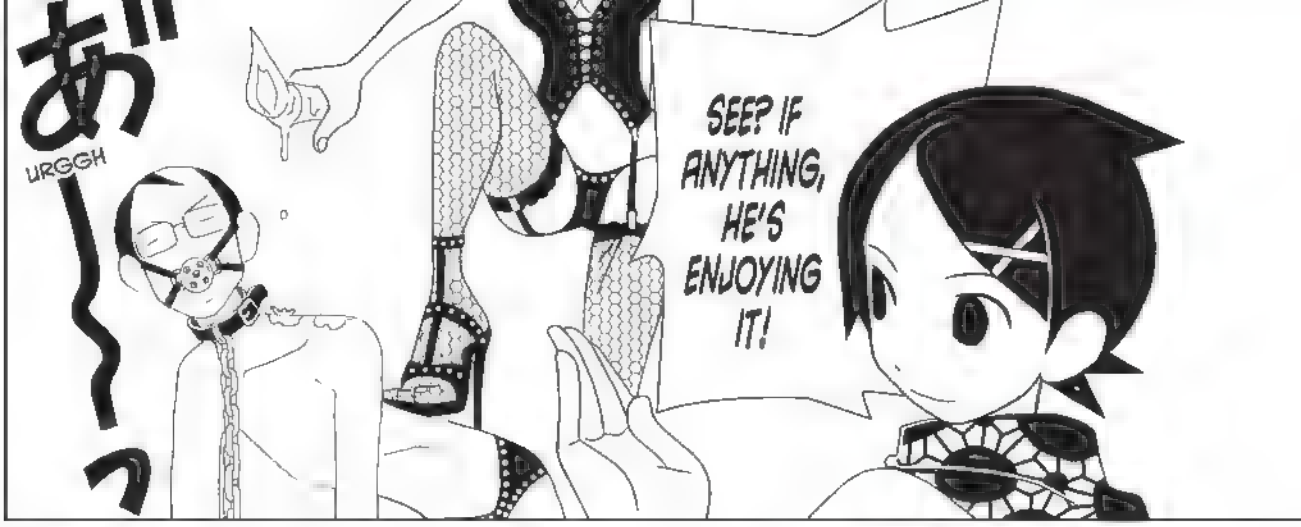

...BY CHANTING SLOGANS AT 'EM.
11
IT'S PRETTY HARD TO STOP A GUY AND GIRL WHO ARE ALREADY IN A HOTEL ROOM...
TRUE.
DOESN'T THIS SEEM SORT OF POINTLESS?

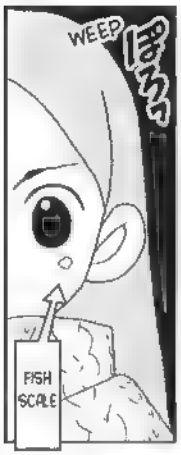
I HAVE AN IDEA.
...OR ELSE THOSE BORN ON NOVEMBER 4TH (OR A LITTLE BEFORE OR AFTER) WILL NEVER DISAPPEAR!
WE'VE GOT TO FIND A MORE RADICAL WAY TO SPOIL THE IMAGE OF CHRISTMAS FOR THE JAPANESE PEOPLE...

ざわっ
MURMUR
...THE VERY SYMBOL OF CHRISTMAS!
FIRST, LET'S BRING DOWN THE IMAGE OF THE CHRISTMAS TREE...

SPROINGG
WHAT IF I HAD DIED?!
YOU SEE, BROTHER? IT'S A KURUSHIMIMASU TREE... A "SUFFERING TREE"!
HAR HAR HAR
ROTFL
HEY YOU! DON'T LAUGH!
MY, MY. WHAT HAPPENED TO MY BROTHER WHO'S ALWAYS TRYING TO COMMIT SUICIDE?
I'VE NO INTENTION OF GIVING UP MY LIFE FOR ONE OF YOUR DUMB-ASS PUNS!
DECORATE IT WITH THINGS THAT CAUSE YOU PAIN AND MISERY.
NOW, THE REST OF YOU SHOULD HELP DECORATE THE TREE.
EXPENSIVE PRESENTS FOR THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF'S GIRLFRIEND!
Cartier
KURUSHIMIMASU PRESENTS
TAX INCREASE PLAN
Passed
KURUSHIMIMASU CARDS
LIKE, TAX INCREASES THAT GIVE GRIEF TO SALARYMEN.

I WAS BORN ON THIS VERY DAY, DECEMBER 24TH.
HMPH...BEING BORN ON NOVEMBER 4TH IS NOTHING.
...I WAS CONCEIVED ON VALENTINE'S DAY!
WHICH MEANS IF YOU COUNT BACK-WARD...
BUT MAYBE IT'LL CAUSE A DECREASE IN BIRTHS ON NOVEMBER 4TH.
KURU-SHIMI-MASU SONGS
WHAT A HORRIBLE TREE.
KURUSHIMIMASU IN COMING UP WITH MANGA MATERIAL
KURU-SHIMI-MASU DINNER (EATING YOUR BRAIN)
KURUSHIMIMASU BARREL (COLD, GREASY CHICKEN)
BROKEN AIR CONDITIONER: KURUSHIMIMASU IN AUGUST
KURUSHIMIMASU IN THE WAR ZONE SPECIAL DEFENSE FORCES IN IRAQ: PLAN TO PROLONG THEIR STAY
NO!
NO, NOT A THING.
HEY, DO YOU HEAR SOME-THING?
BECAUSE OF MY BIRTH-DAY, TWO MAJOR EVENTS ARE RUINED FOR ME!
I'VE GOT TO SUFFER TWICE A YEAR!
BEING CONCEIVED ON VALENTINE'S DAY IS MUCH MORE PITIFUL!
EH?
I'M HANGING MY "NEET" SON!
YOU SAID IT!
DECORATE IT WITH THINGS THAT MAKE YOU SUFFER
COME ON, EVERYONE.
ACTUALLY, IT CAUSES NO SUFFERING.
SEE THIS?
THIS KURU-SHIMIMASU CANDLE?
WE'VE GOT TO STOP SUCH THINGS!
DON'T WORRY.
...I'M HAVING AN AFFAIR WITH!
I'M HANGING THE WIFE OF THE MAN...


あー
URGGH
SEE? IF ANYTHING, HE'S ENJOYING IT!


WEEP
ぼろ
FISH SCALE

SO, YOU CAN HANG ANYONE WHO CAUSES CHIRI-CHAN PAIN.
THAT'S RIGHT! PAIN CAN BE PLEASURE, TOO!

IN THE WORDS OF THE MARQUIS DE SADE...
"IT IS ALWAYS BY WAY OF PAIN ONE ARRIVES AT PLEASURE."

GLARE
キッ

HEY CENTER PART
YR FOREHEADS SO GREASY ITS SHINING

BUT REALLY...
YOU DON'T HAVE TO SAY SUCH THINGS.
PRING-A-LING
ピロリロ

SHWOOP
ヒュン

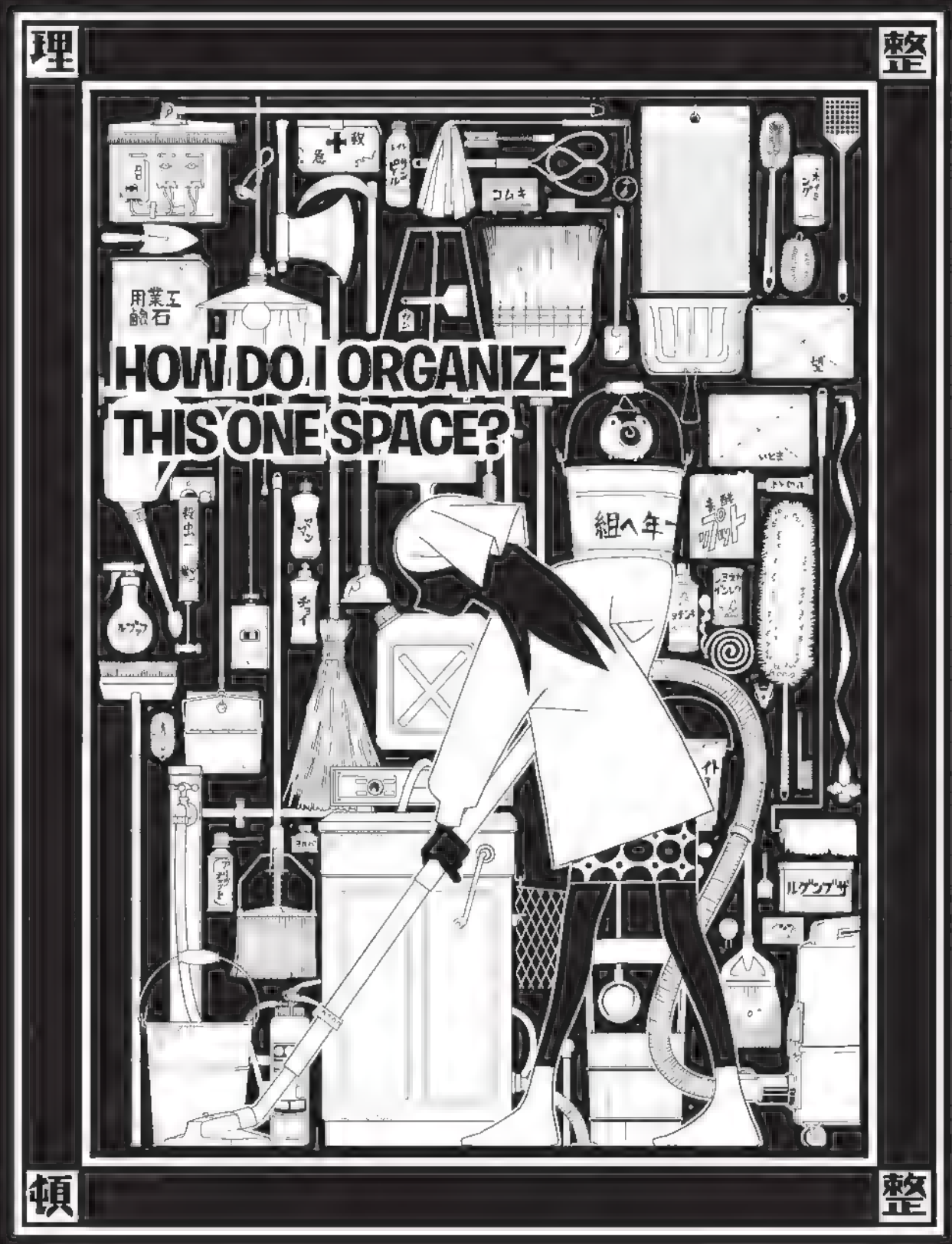
FLOOP
しゅる
?

I'VE SUFFERED YOUR PRESENCE LONG ENOUGH.
YOU SHOULD TALK! YOU NEVER MAKE PROPER PARAGRAPHS!

EEK!
GLARE
...THINKING ABOUT THOSE BOOKS YOU WRITE, WITH THEIR LOOSE MORALS?!
HAVE YOU NO IDEA OF HOW MUCH I SUFFER...
EEK!
...MAKES ME SUFFER!
THE SIZE OF YOUR BOOBS...
EEP!
SHWOOP
GET UP THERE!
I'LL GO, TOO.
YES, MA'AM.
TOKITA... PREPARE THE HELICOPTER. I'M GOING HOME.
SHWOOP
WHOA!
I WILL PRECISELY, AND EQUALLY, HANG ALL THOSE WHOSE PRESENCE I MUST SUFFER.
THAT'S NOT FAIR!
YOU ORDINARILY MAKE ME SUFFER!
SILENCE...
SHWOOP
SHWOOP
FLOOP
11.4
DON'T YOU KNOW ABOUT THE DICTATOR'S SWITCH?
STOP!

ぽっこーん
SOLITARY
WELL, THEN.
NOW I'M ALL ALONE.

DATE OF MANUFACTURE: MAY 12, 2007
DATE OF EXPIRY: MAY 12, 2014



CHAPTER 33

ZZZZZ
糸西
三丁目の黄昏流星
地図

GET OUT?
WHY?

HURRY! GATHER YOUR THINGS AND GET OUTTA HERE!
SENSEI!

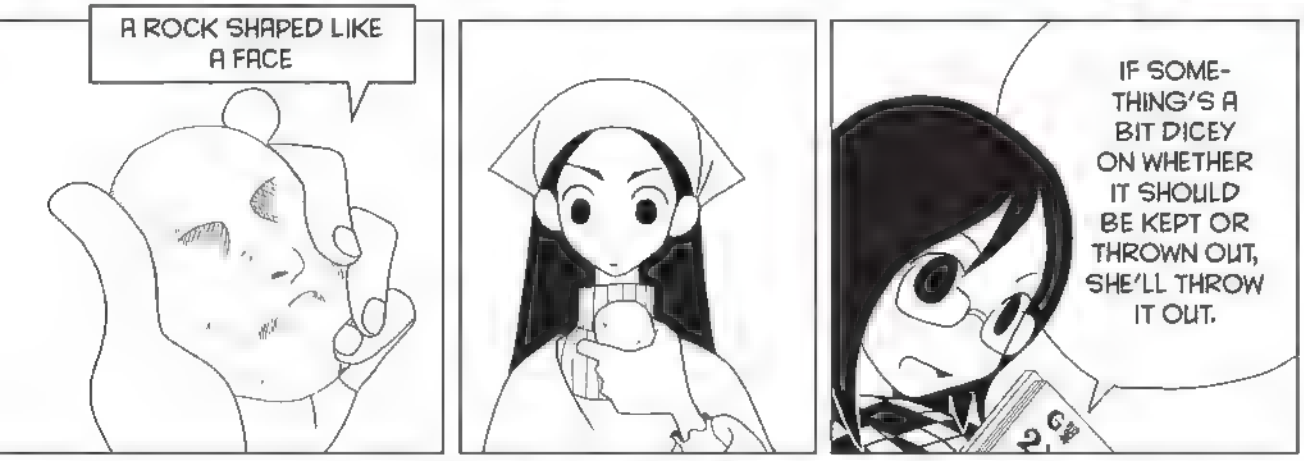
HUH?

CHIRI'S COMING OVER FOR A MAJOR CLEANING!

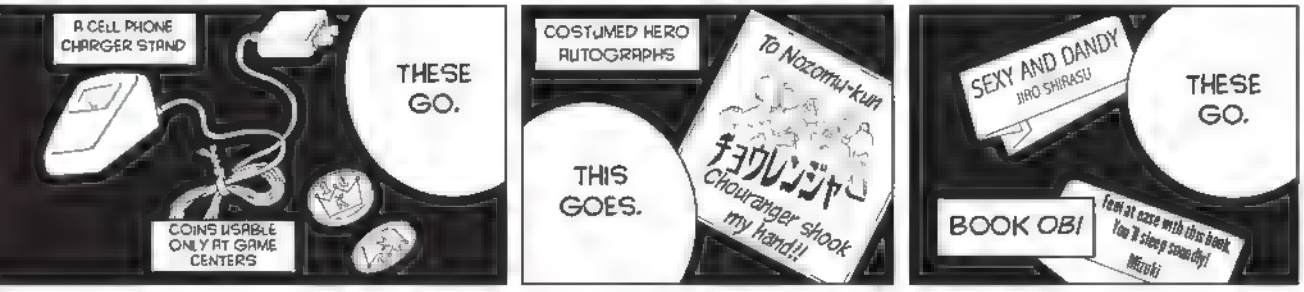
SHFF
ガラッ!!

GOOD MORNING!
EXCUSE ME.
UH-OH! SHE'S HERE ALREADY!
WHY'D YOU HAVE TO COME CLEAN MY HOUSE?
I HOPE YOU'RE READY, BECAUSE IT'S TIME FOR A MAJOR CLEANING.
THIS TIME OF YEAR, CHIRI GOES 'ROUND TO ALL THE HOUSES FOR A MAJOR CLEANING.
IT'S NOT JUST YOUR HOUSE, TEACHER.
GET 2 x 1 DUO x 1 HEERO

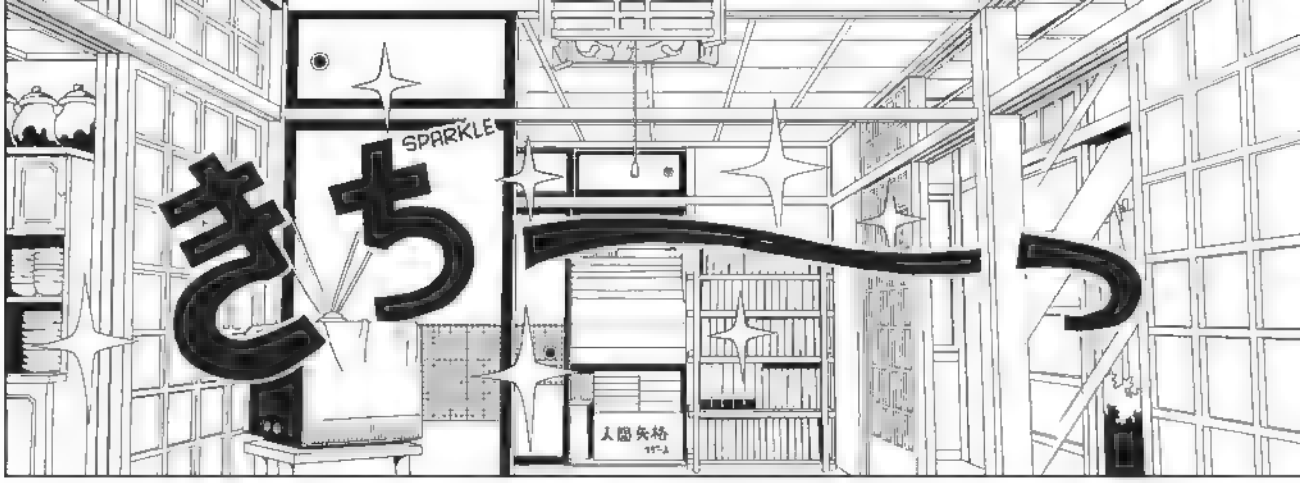
WELL...NO. SHE'S TOO PRECISE, IF YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN.
ぱきぱき ZIP ZIP
BUT IF SHE'S JUST CLEANING, IT SHOULD BE OKAY, RIGHT?
WHAT THE HECK?

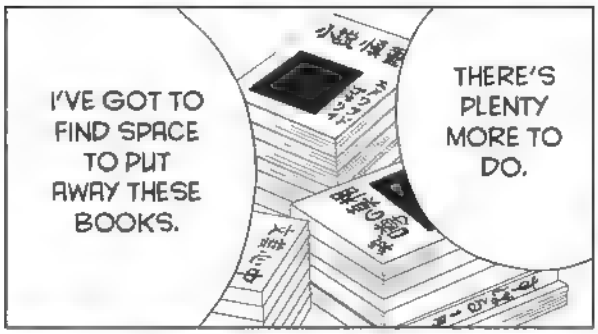

A ROCK SHAPED LIKE A FACE
IF SOME-THING'S A BIT DICEY ON WHETHER IT SHOULD BE KEPT OR THROWN OUT, SHE'LL THROW IT OUT.

HEY! I NEED THAT!
ぽい TOSS
THIS GOES.


A CELL PHONE CHARGER STAND
COINS USABLE ONLY AT GAME CENTERS
THESE GO.
COSTUMED HERO AUTOGRAPHS
To Nazomu-kun
チョウレンジャー
Chouranger shook my hand!!
THIS GOES.
SEXY AND DANDY
JIRO SHIRASU
BOOK OBI
I feel at ease with this book. I can't sleep soundly!
Mizuki
THESE GO.

IF CHIRI BECOMES A MOTHER, SHE'LL BE THE KIND WHO THROWS OUT CARDS AND THE OTHER STUFF THAT KIDS SAVE, WITHOUT EVEN HESITATING.
REALLY, THOSE THINGS ARE PRETTY DICEY...
TOSS
ぽいっ
FOR ME, ALL THOSE THINGS ARE IMPORTANT!

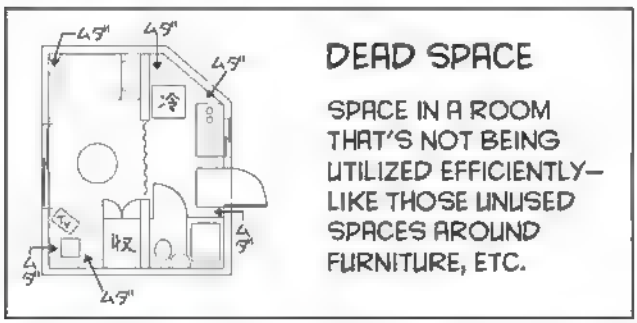

SPARKLE
きちーっ

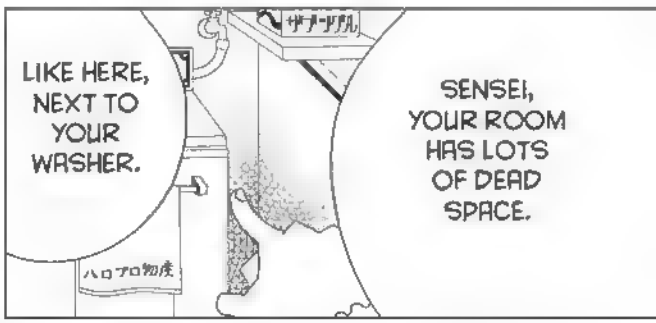

I'VE GOT TO FIND SPACE TO PUT AWAY THESE BOOKS.
THERE'S PLENTY MORE TO DO.

THAT'S ENOUGH!
THERE! EVERY-THING'S ALMOST IN ORDER.

YIKES! I-I WAS JUST KIDDING!

DON'T WORRY. JUST THROW 'EM IN THE CORNER.


ムダ
ムダ
ムダ
冷
ムダ
ムダ
ムダ
DEAD SPACE
SPACE IN A ROOM THAT'S NOT BEING UTILIZED EFFICIENTLY—LIKE THOSE UNUSED SPACES AROUND FURNITURE, ETC.


LIKE HERE, NEXT TO YOUR WASHER.
SENSEI, YOUR ROOM HAS LOTS OF DEAD SPACE.

HERE'S YOUR ORDER.
SHFF
ガラッ

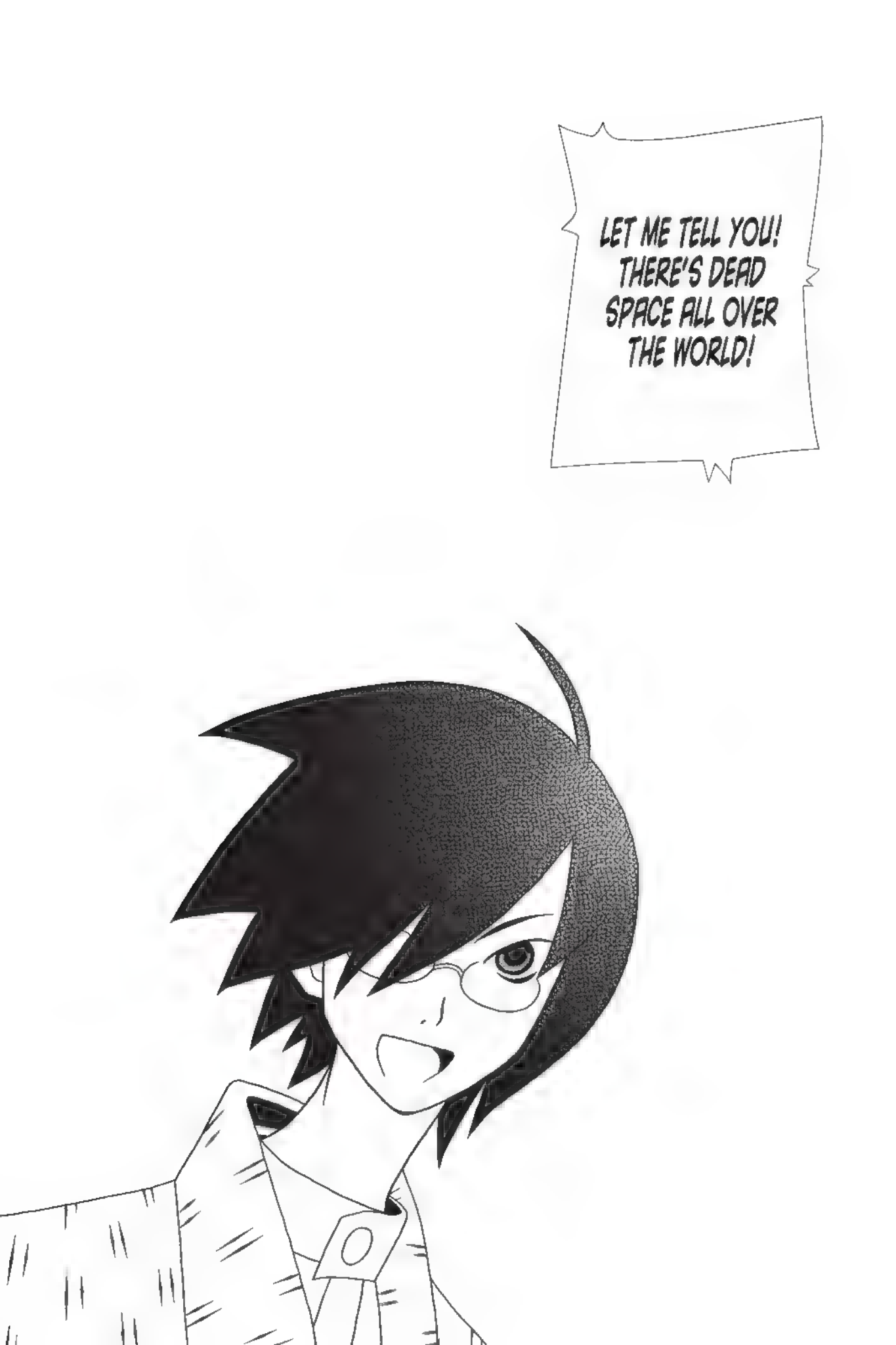
EXPRESS DELIVERY. WE'LL PAY C.O.D.
HELLO? YES, I'D LIKE TO MAKE AN ORDER.

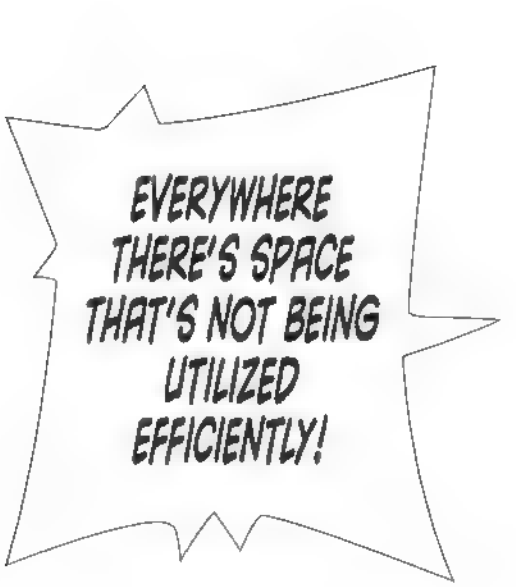
HOW LOVELY. ♡
WE'VE USED THIS DEAD SPACE.
AHHH うっとり
PERFECT FIT ぴたーっ

SHE WAS AWESOME AT TETRIS.
...OR WHETHER SHE JUST DOESN'T TOLERATE DEAD SPACES.
I DON'T KNOW WHETHER CHIRI'S AN EXPERT AT STORING...

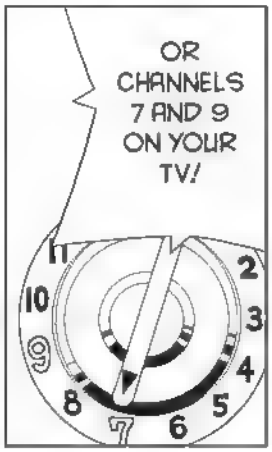
...ISN'T SOMETHING THAT JUST ROOMS HAVE, IS IT?
BUT DEAD SPACE...
HMM...

JUST 'CAUSE SHE THREW OUT SOME OF YOUR STUFF, DON'T START SAYING THINGS TO PROVOKE HER!
SOCIETY IS FULL OF DEAD SPACE.

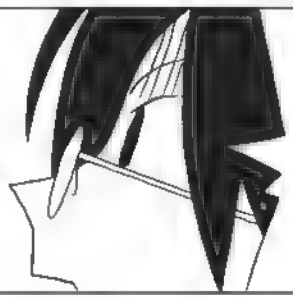

LET ME TELL YOU! THERE'S DEAD SPACE ALL OVER THE WORLD!

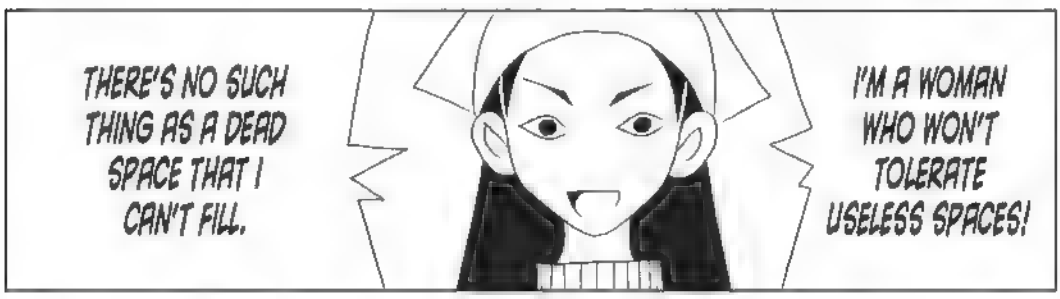

EVERYWHERE THERE'S SPACE THAT'S NOT BEING UTILIZED EFFICIENTLY!

SHEESH! THOSE PAGES JUST NOW WERE DEAD SPACE!
MOST WEEKLY MAGAZINES DON'T HAVE THE COURAGE TO DO THAT!
BESIDES, THERE'S PLENTY OF NATURAL DEAD SPACES.

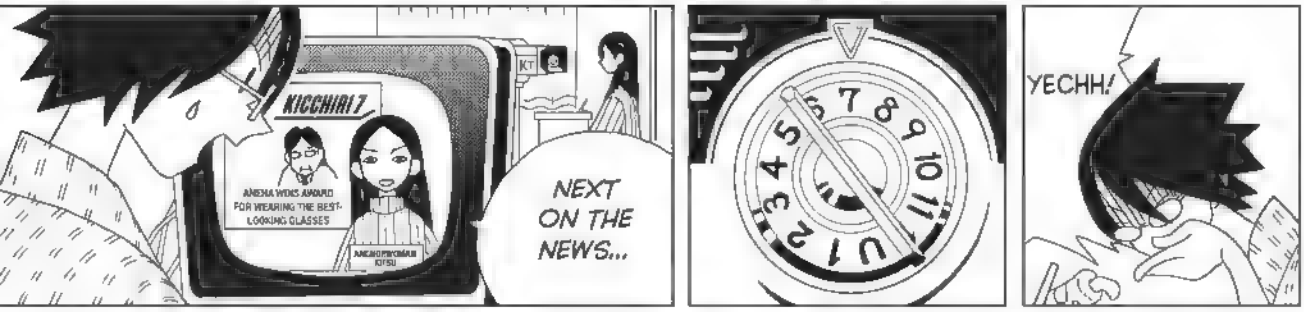


- NO. 4 OF THE YOMIURI GIANTS
- NO. 4 REPRESENT NG JAPAN
- THE WEST'S GRADED LIST IS TOPS
- THE BIG WHITE SPACE ON THE PLATE N FRENCH CUISINE
- THE SPACES BETWEEN "YA YU YO" AND "WA WO UN" IN THE JAPANESE BASIC FIFTY-SYLLABLE SYSTEM
- THE WHITE SPACE AT THE LOWER PART OF THE SCREEN WITH AN IMAC G5
- EGAWA'S ONE EMPTY DAY
- THE SALES DATE OF *WEEKLY SHÔNEN MAGAZINE*—TUESDAY AND FRIDAY (HOW ABOUT MOVING THE TWO WEDNESDAY PUBLICATIONS TO ONE OR THE OTHER DAY?)
- THE PART SURROUNDING THE OADX IN A PLAYSTATION2 CONTROLLER
- THE SEA OF TREES (IT'S DEAD SPACE BUT IT'S BEING USED, SO IT'S DICEY)
- EMPTY LOTS IN THE ROPPONGI HILLS COMPLEX
- THE PASSENGER SEAT OF THE RESPONSIBLE PARTY





IT'S AN ORIGINAL FOOD CREATION!
THERE ARE MYSTERY INGRE-DIENTS STUFFED IN THE HOLES OF THIS CHIKUWA!
GASP!
HERE, HAVE SOME OF THIS TO EAT.

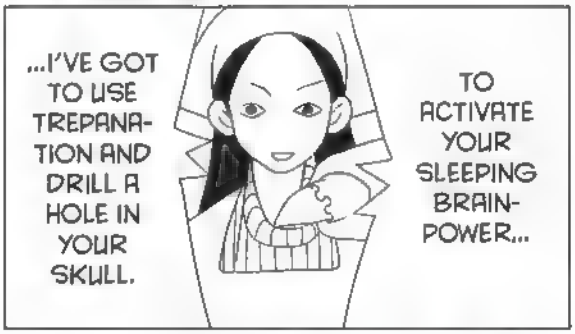

KICCHIRI 7
ANEMA WINS AWARD FOR WEARING THE BEST-LOOKING GLASSES
NEXT ON THE NEWS...
YECHH!

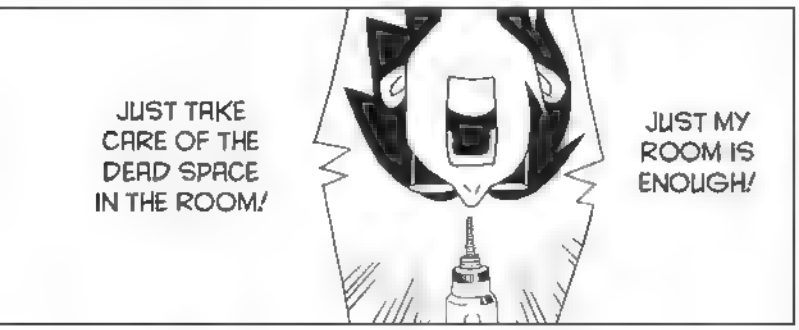
GASP!
NOOO, IT CAN'T BE! EVEN THE ADDRESS BOOK ON MY CELL PHONE!
CLICK
GASP!
KEFU NO RYORI
TV MANGA
LITTLE MISS PRECISION
GASP!
CLICK

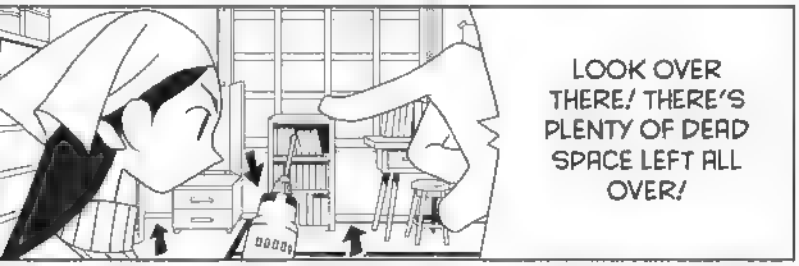
I'LL NEVER TOLERATE DEAD SPACE!
I'VE GOT 990 SPACES FILLED WITH THE NAME OF ONE PERSON!
ADDRESS BOOK (1000/1000)
NO.711 CHIRI KITSU
NO.712 CHIRI KITSU
NO.713 CHIRI KITSU
KA BOOM
NO.714 CHIRI KITSU
NO.715 CHIRI KITSU
NO.716 CHIRI KITSU
WHEN YOU, YOURSELF, HAVE DEAD SPACE?!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "YOU'LL NEVER TOLERATE DEAD SPACE"?

THAT'S A HUGE WASTE OF SPACE!
THERE'S THE SPACE BETWEEN THE B-CUP BRA YOU BOUGHT OUT OF VANITY, AND YOUR ACTUAL BREAST SIZE!
SEE? THAT'S DEAD SPACE!
EEEK!
BAM
だんっ
すっ
SWIP
ACTUALLY, I USE IT QUITE EFFECTIVELY.
だんっ
BAM
だんっ
BAM
WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE, FUJIKO-CHAN?!
AN ASSASSIN'S KNIFE HIDDEN IN YOUR BRA?
I'VE JUST FOUND YOUR DEAD SPACE, SENSEI.
EEP!

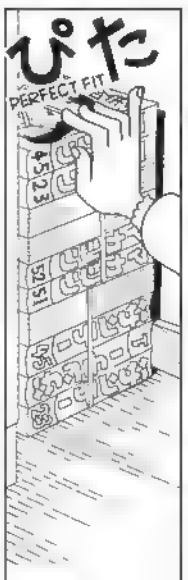
WHICH MEANS THE REST OF THE BRAIN IS DEAD SPACE, BECAUSE IT'S NOT BEING USED EFFICIENTLY!
THEY SAY THAT PEOPLE ONLY USE A THIRD OF THEIR BRAINS!

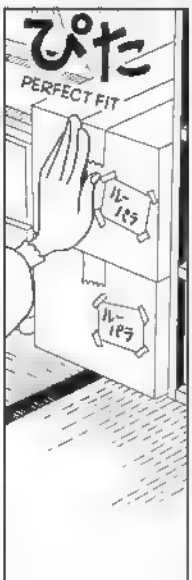


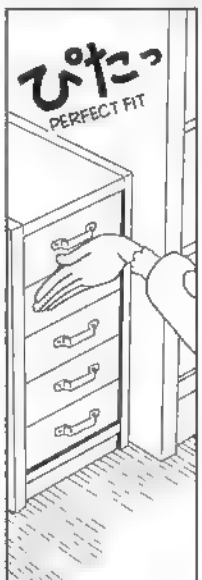


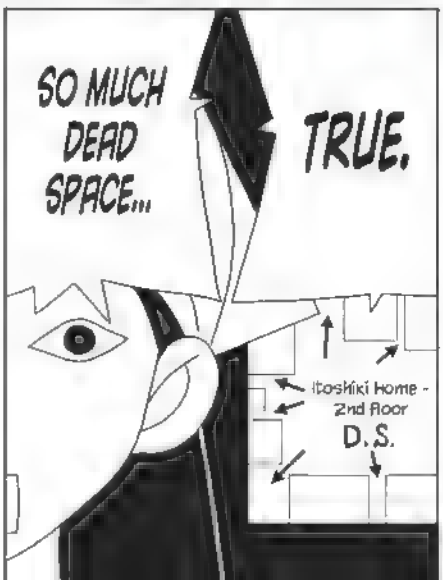


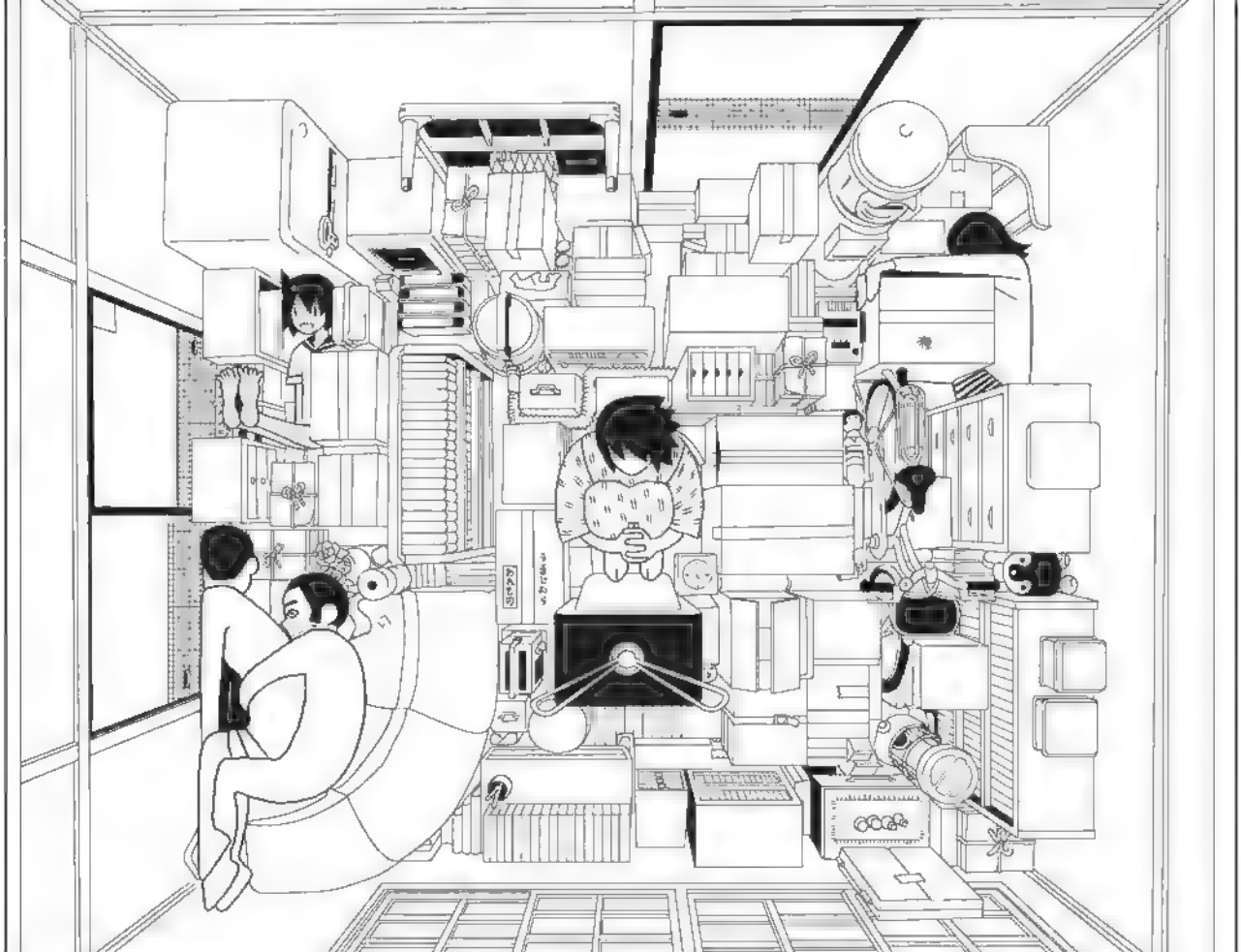
*TREPANATION IS AN EXTREMELY DANGEROUS PROCEDURE. DON'T EVER DO THIS AT HOME.

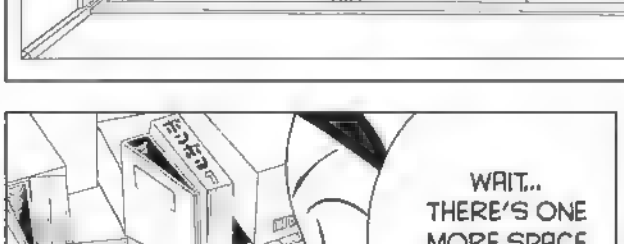








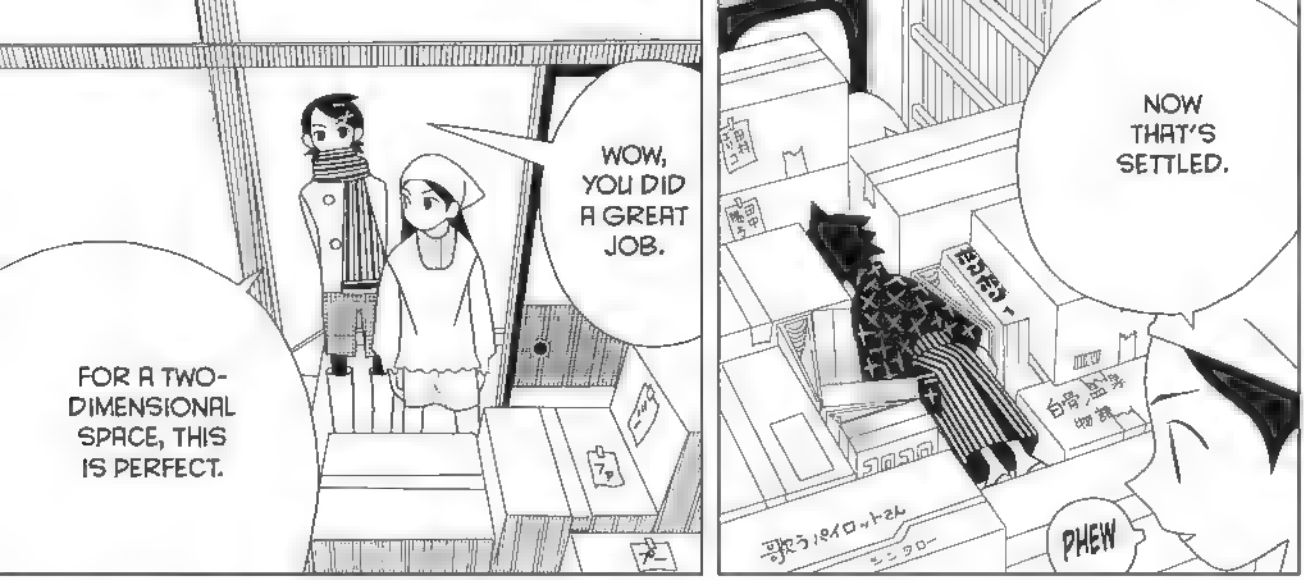



WAIT... THERE'S ONE MORE SPACE LEFT HERE...

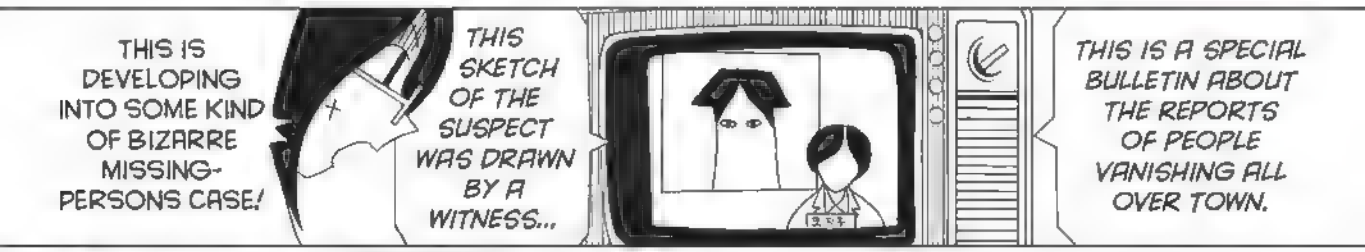
AT LAST! NO MORE DEAD SPACE.

...FOR A FOUR- TO FIVE-YEAR-OLD BOY.
IT'D BE A PERFECT FIT...

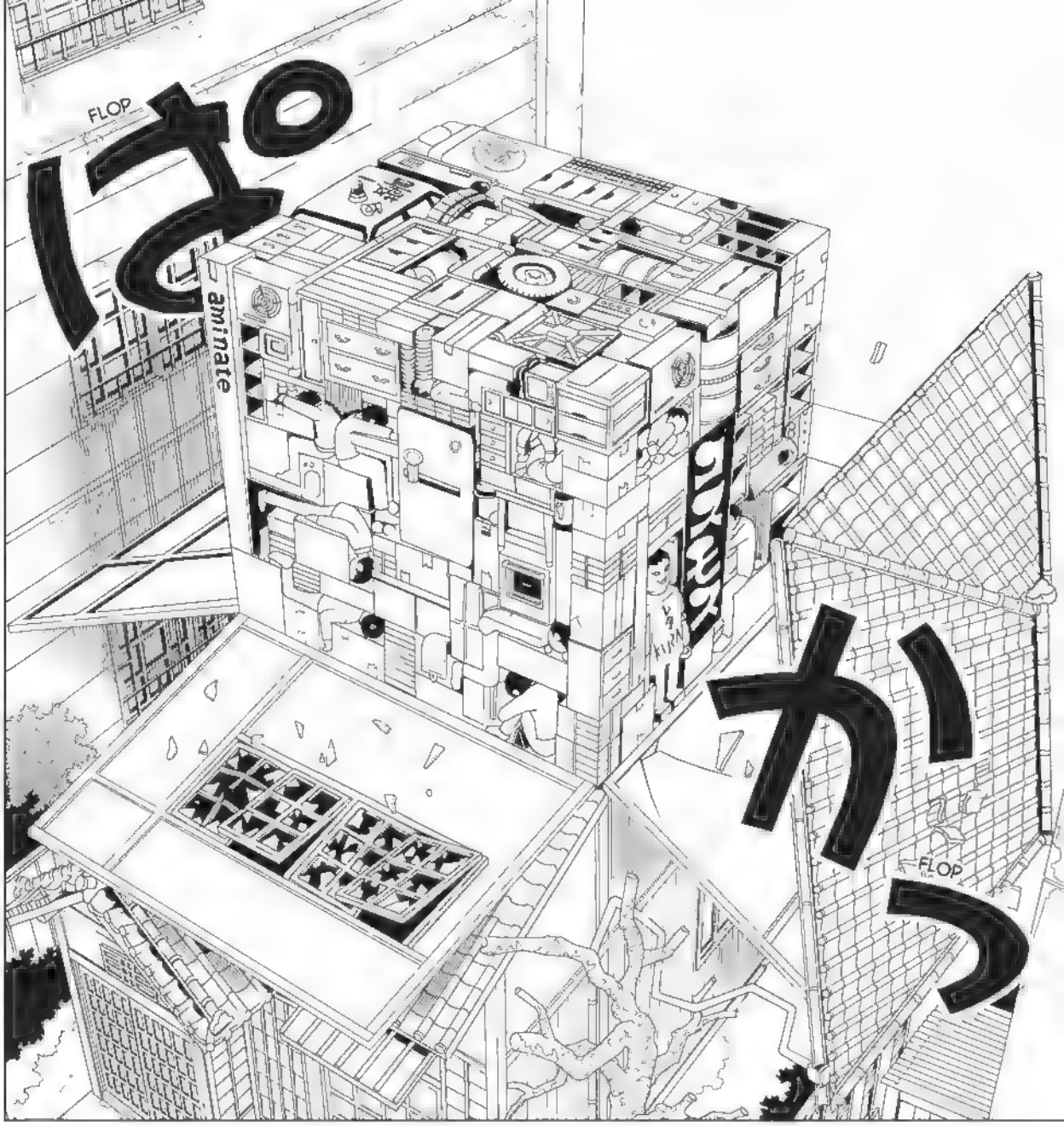
NOOOOOO



VIEW FROM ABOVE
SIDE VIEW
THERE'S STILL DEAD SPACE ON TOP.
TO MAKE IT THREE-DIMENSIONAL, YOU'D HAVE TO KEEP GOING UPWARD.
FOR A TWO-DIMENSIONAL SPACE?

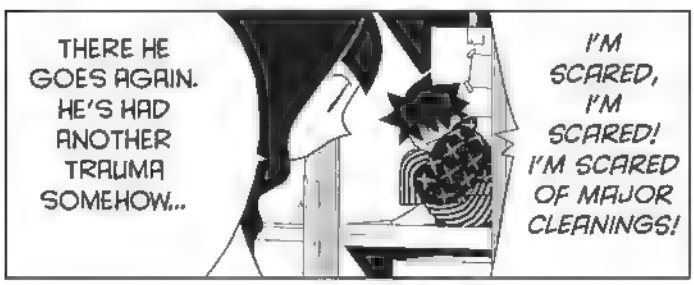

THIS IS DEVELOPING INTO SOME KIND OF BIZARRE MISSING-PERSONS CASE!
THIS SKETCH OF THE SUSPECT WAS DRAWN BY A WITNESS...
THIS IS A SPECIAL BULLETIN ABOUT THE REPORTS OF PEOPLE VANISHING ALL OVER TOWN.

▲ THIS ONE RAN AWAY

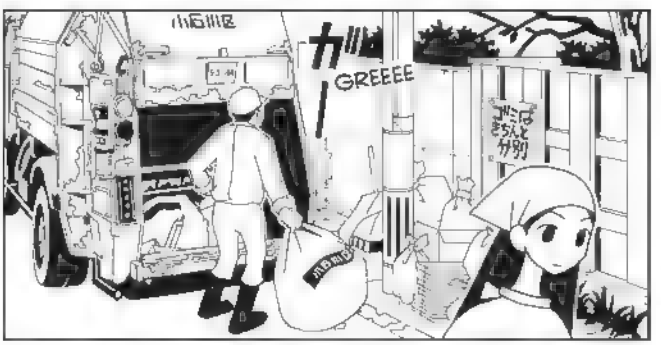

FLOP
animate
FLOP

I NEVER THOUGHT I'D BE WELCOMING THE NEW YEAR IN SUCH A SPOT.

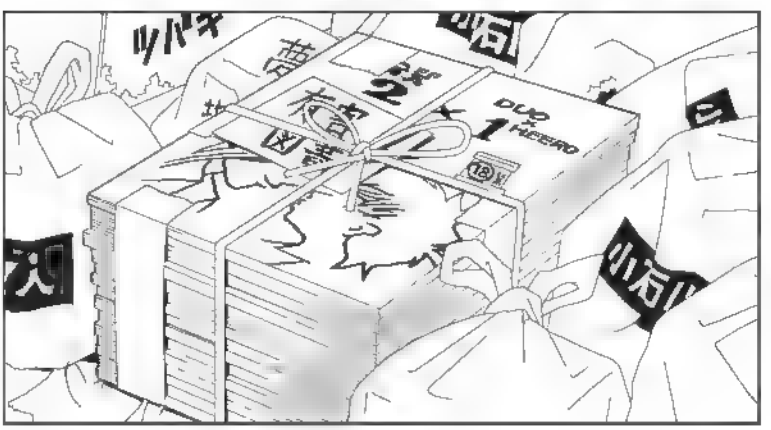
SENSEI IS RIGHT IN THE CENTER.


THERE HE GOES AGAIN. HE'S HAD ANOTHER TRAUMA SOMEHOW...
I'M SCARED, I'M SCARED! I'M SCARED OF MAJOR CLEANINGS!

HAPPY NEW YEAR!
BONG


GREEEE

THEY'RE
GOOOONNNE
!!!

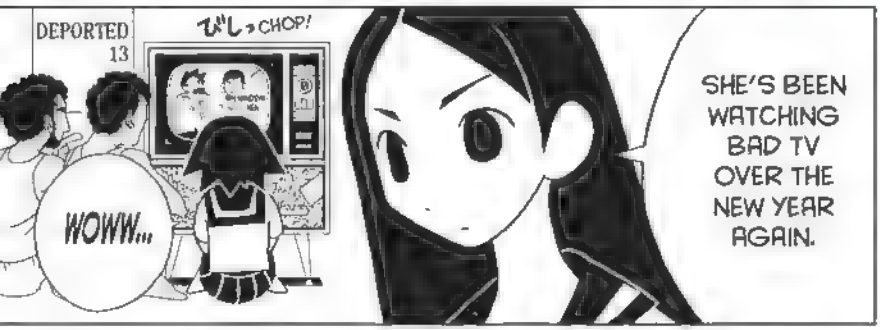

DUO
HAZARD

CHAPTER 34

*SEE TRANSLATION NOTES

GLAAAGH!
CHOP!
WHATCHA DOIN'?
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?
WH...
I'M A *TSUKKOMI*, YO!
WHEN YOU'RE ACTING LIKE A *BOKE*.
YA GOTTA GET SLAPPED BY A *TSUKKOMI*...

...IT'D BE WEIRD IF THERE WASN'T A NEW YEAR'S TSUKKOMI.
'CAUSE IF YOU'RE A NEW YEAR'S BOKE...


DEPORTED 13
びしっ CHOP!
WOWW...
SHE'S BEEN WATCHING BAD TV OVER THE NEW YEAR AGAIN.

A NEW YEAR'S TSUKKOMI...
KOFF

BAD GIRL!
びしっ CHOP!
ACKK!
YOU STOP THAT NOW!

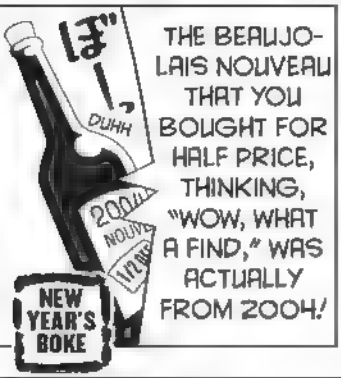
ぼー DUHH
UH-OH.

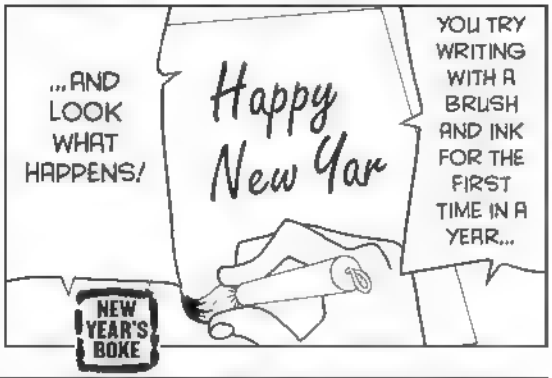
...WILL HAVE ME FOR THEIR TSUKKOMI!
WASHAAA
しゃーっ
ALL THE NEW YEAR'S BOKES HANGING AROUND TOWN...

SENSEI! LET'S GO AFTER HER!
ER...OKAY...

HEY! WAIT!

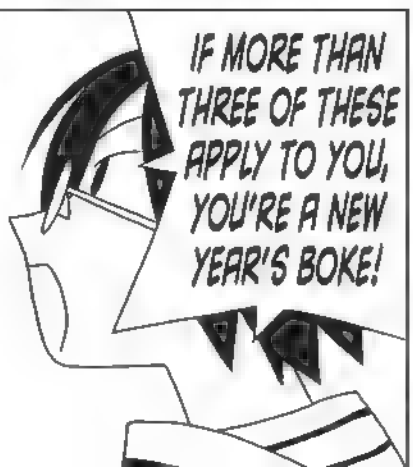
ゴールデン銀座
手塚医院
HEY, YOU. GOT THE NEW YEAR'S BOKE?
HA HA. YEAH, A LITTLE.
DUHH
WHAT WAS THAT FOR?
WHAP
OOOF!
YOU AIR-HEAD!
GLARH!
SLAP
HEY!
DUHH
UH-OH! EVERY-ONE IN TOWN WITH THE NEW YEAR'S BOKE SYNDROME IS GETTING TSUKKOMIED!
WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?!
CHOP
AGGH!
WHAP
シンコ書店





NEW YEAR'S BOKE
• THE MANGA ARTIST
• THE PRINTER
• THE EDITOR
AND JUST WHEN EVERY-ONE IS LOOKING TO SPEND THE LAST OF THEIR *OTOSHIDAMA*, THAT'S WHEN SPECIAL NEW YEAR EDITIONS OF *SHÔNEN MAGAZINE* START COMING OUT!

- ☐ THERE'S LEFTOVER CRAB BUT YOU ATE THE CURRY RICE
- ☐ AS A DEBT FOR WATCHING THE KÖHAKU, YOU PAID THE RECEIVING FEES WITHOUT THINKING
- ☐ YOU BOUGHT USELESS STUFF AT AUTOBACS (LIKE A LONG BLACK MIRROR)
- ☐ YOU USED THE LIGHTBULB WASTEFULLY WITH THE PRINT GOCCO SYSTEM
- ☐ YOU RENTED A VIDEO THAT YOU'VE ALREADY SEEN
- ☐ YOU SUDDENLY THINK THAT A CELEBRITY YOU ALWAYS THOUGHT WAS BORING IS KIND OF INTERESTING AFTER ALL
- ☐ WANTING TO DO A GOOD DEED, YOU BOUGHT A WHITE BAND
- ☐ YOU'RE IMPRESSED BY HIKOMARO
- ☐ YOU'RE REALLY CONCERNED ABOUT AKIKO YADA
- ☐ YOU DREAM ABOUT FLYING
- ☐ YOU TEND TO FRET OVER THINGS

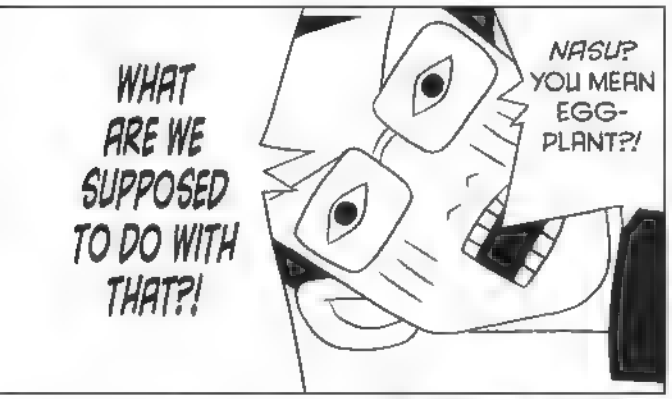


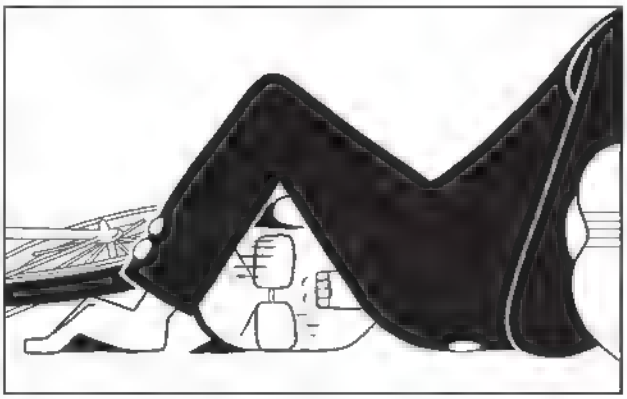
SO, THERE ARE MANY KIND OF NEW YEAR'S BOKES.
HMM...
あびこ新聞
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, SENSEI?!
OH, IT'S NOTHING. I JUST WANTED TO SPREAD OUT THE DAMAGE.
WHOA! STOP THAT!
GAAH!
びしっ
WHACK
I'LL TSUKKOMI 'EM ALL!
THAT'S ENOUGH! THINGS LIKE THIS DRIVE ME CRAZY!
イラッ
RRGG
びしっ
WHAK
ばしっ
SLAP
びし
WHAP
...PUNCH ALL THE OTHER BOKES TOO!
IF YOU'RE GOING TO TSUKKOMI THOSE PEOPLE...
GOOD. IF CHIRI-CHAN TELLS HER, SHE MIGHT LISTEN.
は
AHH
は
OOH
THE LOVE BOKES!
YOU'RE THE CUTEST GIRL IN THE WHOLE WORLD.
LIKE THAT, FOR INSTANCE!
THAT'S WHAT BUGS YOU?

THEIR GLASSES ARE CLACKING.
OHHH...
CLACK
AHH
OOH
AHH
AHH
CLACK
CLACK
CLACK
WHOA! NOW SHE'S *REALLY* LAYING INTO THEM!
WHACK
びしっ
THAT'S NOT CUTE AT ALL!
ボーッ
DUHH
THERE'S A JET-LAG BOKE!
THERE ARE STILL LOTS OF OTHER TYPES OF *BOKES* ALL OVER THE WORLD!
THAT'S *ANOTHER* KIND OF *BOKE!*
SCARY!
A JET-LAG TSUK-KOMI?
WHACK
びしっ
GOOD MORRRRN-IIING!

OUT-OF-FOCUS *TSUKKOMI*...
OUT-OF-FOCUS *BOKES*...
そふとふぉーかす
SOFT FOCUS
IT'S *PINBOKE*... "OUT OF FOCUS"!
THIS *TSUKKOMI* IS GONNA HURT.
TEE-HEE.
OH, IT'S ME!
MY, MY! WHO IS THIS CUTE GIRL?
PAY ATTENTION TO WHERE YOU'RE LOOKING!
OOPS.
OUCHHH
どごんっ
WHAM
YOU *BOKENASU*!
I'VE GOT TO HIT 'EM WITH A *TSUKKOMI*!
WELL, A *BOKE* IS A *BOKE*...
NASU
BOKE

TSUKKOMI NASU!

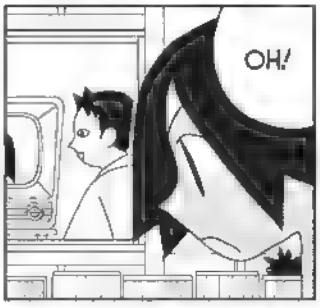

WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DO WITH THAT?!
NASU? YOU MEAN EGG-PLANT?!



ALTHOUGH I'LL PROBABLY BE SUED FOR SAYING THIS...
TO BE CONTINUED BY AI HAMANAKA...
I'LL SUE YOU!
Y-Y-YOU WANT TO SHOVE THIS EGGPLANT INTO ME?

BOKE NATURAL

ボーッ
DUHH
RIN YURIKO IS A NATURAL BOKE!


OH!

TAKE THAT!

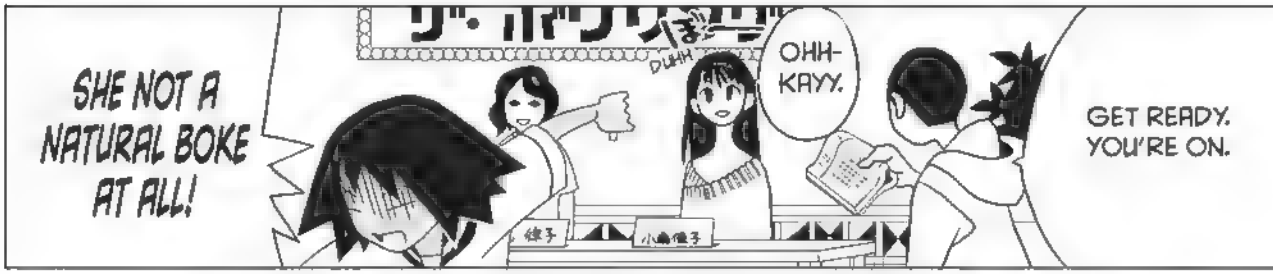
ぽーっ
DUHH
TV
ボウリング

I'VE GOTTA GIVE HER A TSUKKOMI!

ガしっ
BLOCK
ULP!

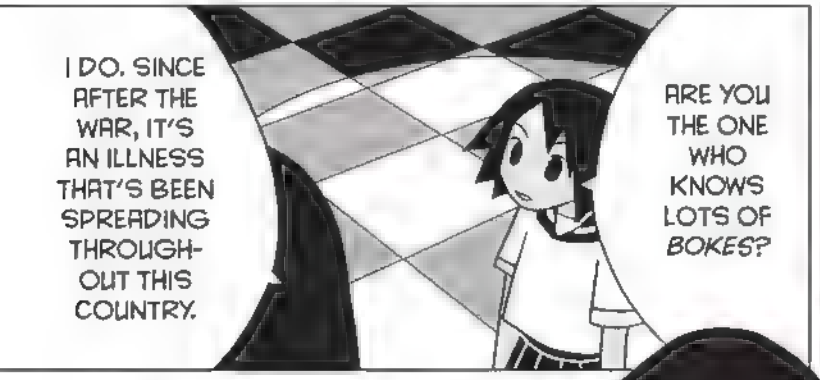
THIS IS ALL PART OF MY PLAN, GIRL.

べしょっ
THWUMP
ぐいっ
TWIST


SHE NOT A NATURAL BOKE AT ALL!
DUHH
OHH-KAYY.
GET READY. YOU'RE ON.

I'LL TSUKKOMI ALL THE OTHER BOKES!
BUT MARIA WON'T GIVE UP!
DON'T GET TOO CLOSE TO NATURAL BOKES. THEY THE DARK SIDE OF ENTER-TAINMENT INDUSTRY.
WHAT HAPPENED, MATARO?

THERE'S SOMEONE IN THERE WHO KNOWS LOTS OF *BOKES*.
THEN YOU'D BETTER GO IN THERE FIRST.


I DO. SINCE AFTER THE WAR, IT'S AN ILLNESS THAT'S BEEN SPREADING THROUGH-OUT THIS COUNTRY.
ARE YOU THE ONE WHO KNOWS LOTS OF *BOKES*?

KREEEK

...ARE PEACE BOKES.
THE JAPANESE...

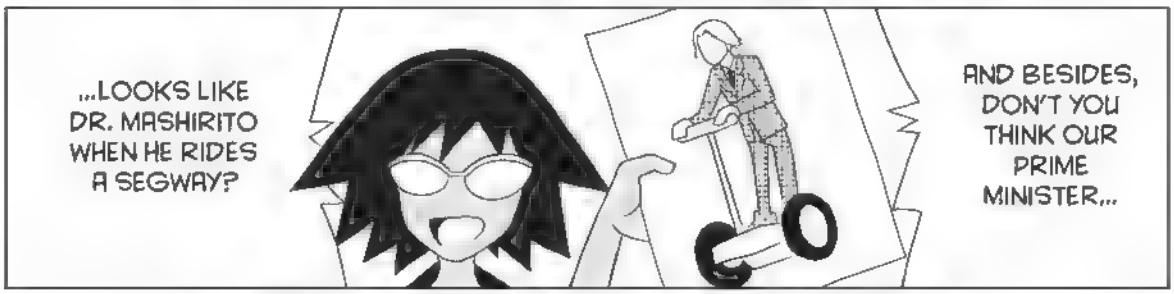
WE'LL DO IT!
...TO ALL THE JAPANESE WHO ARE SPACED-OUT ON PEACE!
WE'LL GIVE TSUKKOMI SLAPS...

PRIME MINISTER! PLEASE GIVE US YOUR RESPONSE!

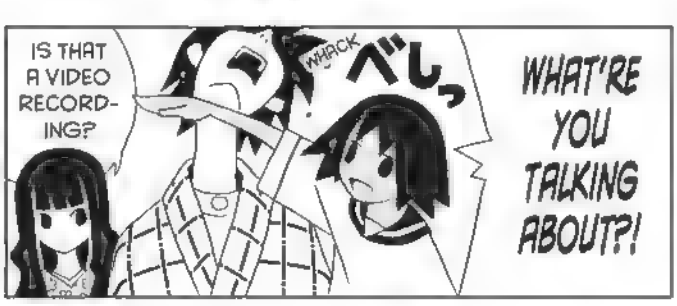
WE MUSTN'T LOOK UPON THE RECENT THREATS FROM NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES WITH SUCH LENIENCY!
OTHER COUNTRIES ARE EXERCISING CONTROL OVER OUR COUNTRY! THE PROBLEM OF THE KYUSHU KINKAI GAS FIELDS. THE REPEATED INCURSIONS IN OUR TERRITORIAL WATERS! THE INCREASE IN CRIMES DUE TO ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS!

MISSILES WILL COME FLYING INTO TOKYO!
WHILE WE'RE DOING THIS AND THAT, OTHER COUNTRIES ARE MAKING MISSILES WITH OUR ASSIS-TANCE!

YOU'RE TOO SOFT!
I BELIEVE THAT WE SHOULD SOLVE THESE ISSUES THROUGH A PEACFUL DIALOGUE, WITH PATIENCE AND MUTUAL UNDER-STANDING.

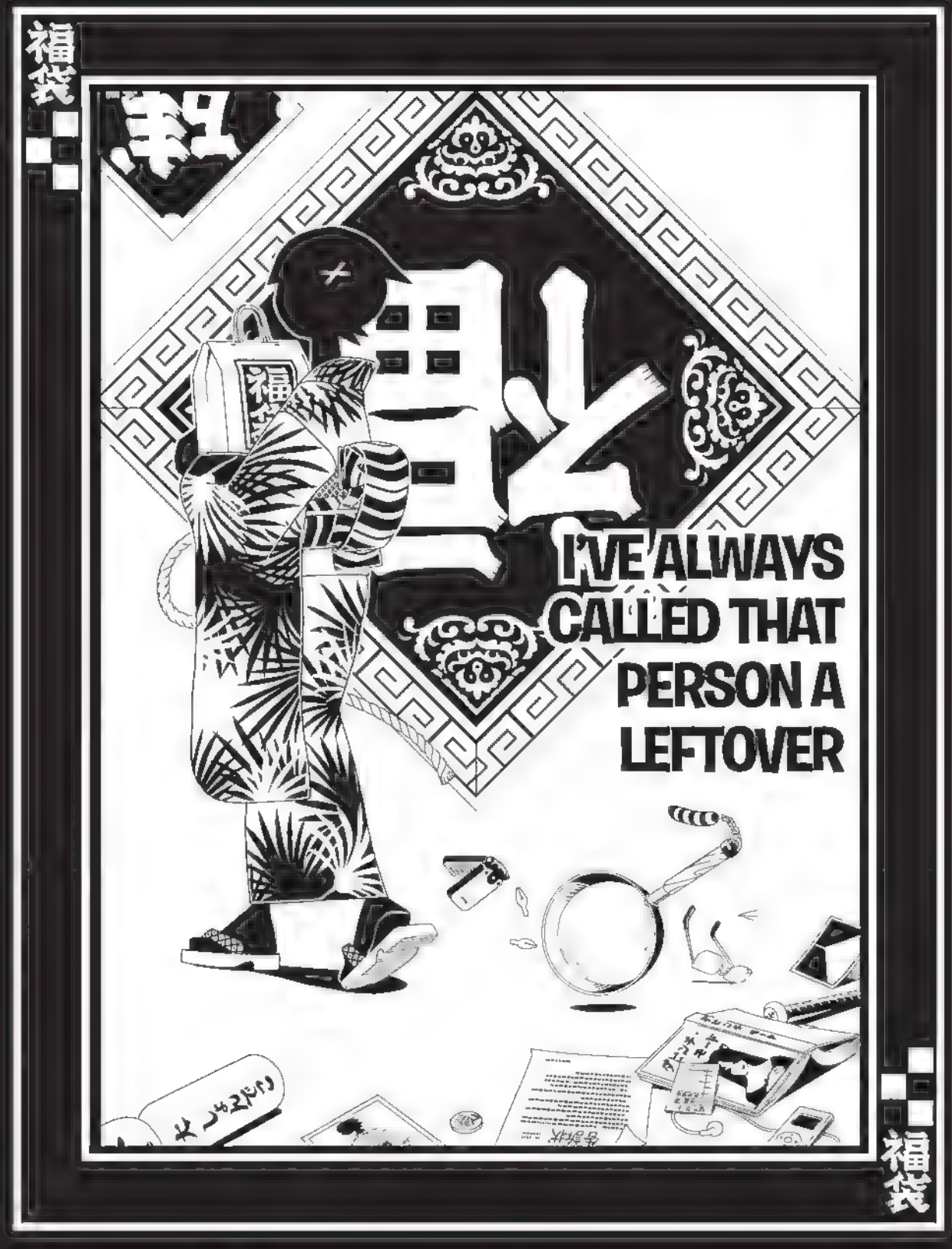

...LOOKS LIKE DR. MASHIRITO WHEN HE RIDES A SEGWAY?
AND BESIDES, DON'T YOU THINK OUR PRIME MINISTER...

MY, BROTHER. ARE YOU PLAYING BOKE?
THE PEOPLE DESERVE AN EXPLA-NATION!
HA HA HA... WHO IS THIS GIRL?


IS THAT A VIDEO RECORD-ING?
WHACK
べしっ
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!

BOKE
PLAYING

IT'S IN THE MAIN STORY, TOO.
THE MISSING SCREEN TONE IS ON PURPOSE.

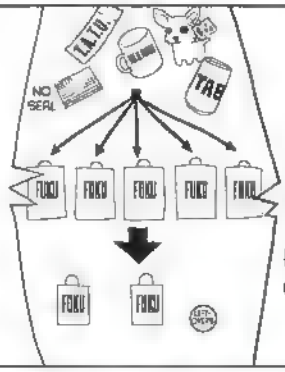


CHAPTER 35

HALF PRICE
FUKUBUKURO
(LUCKY BAGS)
FUKUBUKURO
(LUCKY BAGS)
Fukubukuro
5,000 yen
half price
THERE'S STILL SOME FUKUBUKURO LEFT.*
BUT THAT SURE IS A LOT OF LEFTOVERS.
*SEE TRANSLATION NOTES.
THEY SAY "THERE'S GOOD FORTUNE IN THINGS THAT ARE LEFT OVER."
WHY DON'T YOU BUY ONE?
NO WAY. HOW THE HECK COULD THEY BE GOOD FORTUNE?
FUKUBU-KURO LEFTOVERS...

...ARE NOTHING BUT LEFT-OVERS OF LEFTOVERS!

THEY'RE THE DREGS OF THE LEFT-OVERS!



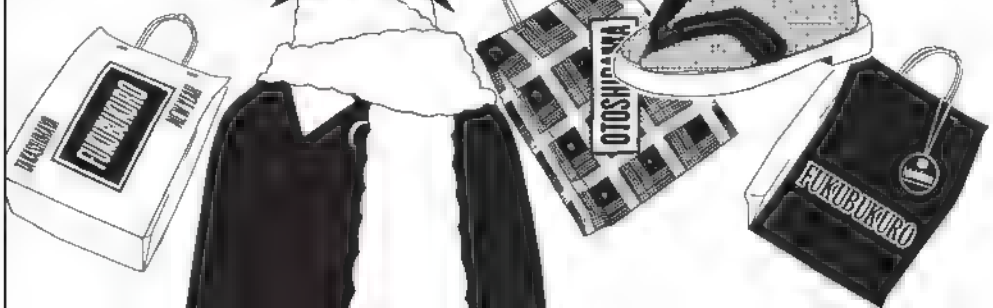
THEY'RE LEFTOVER MERCHANDISE THAT ARE STUFFED INTO BAGS, WHICH BECOME MORE LEFT-OVERS!

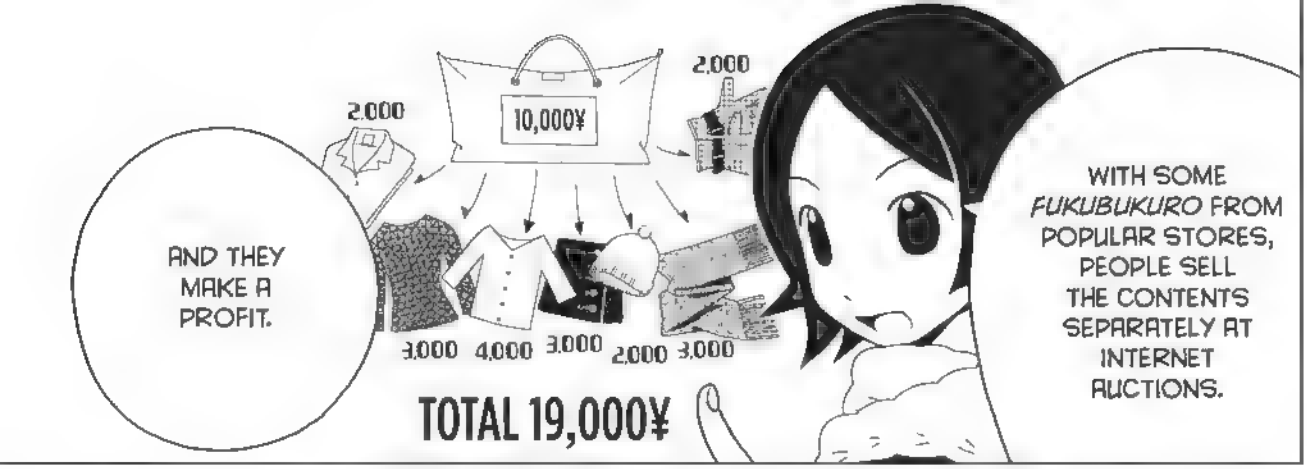
THEY'RE PROBABLY FULL OF GARBAGE!

THEY'RE NOT GOOD FORTUNE!

...TRY HARD TO FILL 'EM UP WITH GOOD THINGS.

THAT'S NOT TRUE. NOWADAYS, ALL THE STORES,...




2,000
10,000¥
2,000
3,000 4,000 3,000 2,000 3,000
TOTAL 19,000¥
AND THEY MAKE A PROFIT.
WITH SOME *FUKUBUKURO* FROM POPULAR STORES, PEOPLE SELL THE CONTENTS SEPARATELY AT INTERNET AUCTIONS.

NONE OF THE REALLY GOOD STUFF IS LEFT!
SNIP
SNIP
SNIP
...WON'T PUT THEM IN *FUKUBUKURO*. THEY CUT THEM UP AND THROW THEM AWAY INSTEAD.
BUT TO MAINTAIN THE PRICES ON BRAND ITEMS, THE REALLY WELL-KNOWN STORES...

I THINK THERE'S A PROBLEM WITH THAT, TOO.
TO SAY THAT THEY'RE DREGS IS TOTALLY RIDICULOUS!
BUT SOME SHOPS MANUFACTURE GOODS SPECIFICALLY FOR THE *FUKUBUKURO*.

THAT'S NOTHING BUT SELLING STUFF AS A SET.
FUKUBUKURO SET A
RECENTLY, THERE ARE PLENTY OF *FUKUBUKURO* THAT EVEN TELL YOU THE CONTENTS.

...OR GAS STATION *FUKUBUKURO*...
...OR GLASSES *FUKUBUKURO*...
LIKE PHARMACEUTICAL *FUKUBUKURO*...
福袋
福袋
福袋
福袋
ダイソー
...OR TRAVEL *FUKUBUKURO*.

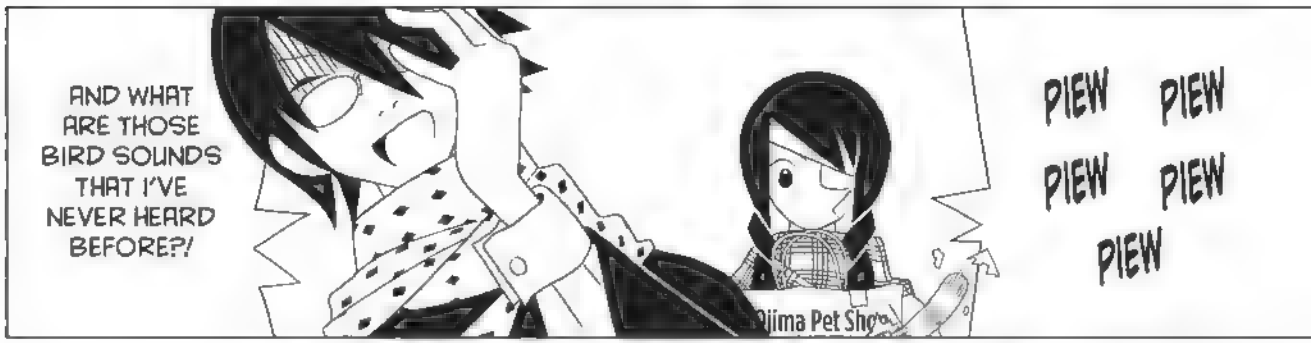
...BUT THERE'S OTHER *FUKUBUKURO* THAT DON'T MAKE ANY SENSE AT ALL.
BASICALLY, I CAN UNDERSTAND PUTTING CLOTHES IN GRAB BAGS...

HOW CAN I BELIEVE SUCH SILLY TALK?
BUT PHARMACEUTICAL *FUKUBUKURO* HAVE THINGS LIKE SHAMPOOS, SUPPLEMENTS, AND SOY-MILK COOKIES.
THEY WON'T FOOL ME!
THE GLASSES *FUKUBUKURO* CONTAIN THINGS LIKE CLEANERS, CASES, OR COUPONS FOR BUYING NEW GLASSES.
OR MORE LIKELY, THEY'RE STUFFED WITH SAMPLES THAT COST THEM NOTHING!!
THEY'RE PROBABLY FULL OF DODGY MEDICINES THAT'VE BEEN REVEALED TO HAVE SIDE EFFECTS, OR UNSOLD LEFTOVER DRUGS FOR URINARY INCONTINENCE.
AT GAS STATIONS, I KIND OF THINK THEY PUT IN THINGS LIKE CAR AROMA DIFFUSERS, CAR WAX, AND KEY HOLDERS.
OR USED DISPOSABLE CONTACT LENSES.
GOODS
I'M SURE THEY ONLY PUT IN FRAMES THAT YOU'D NEVER WEAR IN YOUR ENTIRE LIFETIME.
AT LEAST THEY PROBABLY HAVE GAS COUPONS...
ON THE SURFACE, THEY'RE PLAIN, ORDINARY ITEMS, BUT THEY'LL END UP BEING USED FOR CRIMES!
Regular
WRONG! I BET THE CONTENTS ARE MORE LIKE THIS!
...THEY'VE GOT UNIFORMS FROM SECOND-RATE TEAMS THAT NO ONE WOULD WANT TO ROOT FOR!
IN THE SPORTING GOODS *FUKUBUKURO*...
DON'T DENY IT!
BESIDES, THEY'RE THE OLD STYLES...
WHY?
...THEY'LL THROW IN 99-YEN SHOP GOODS!
FOR THE 100-YEN SHOP *FUKUBUKURO*...
SHWIP
100 YEN
99 YEN

IN BUTCHER SHOP FUKUBUKURO, THERE'RE JUST HUGE CHUNKS OF LARD!
IN TOY STORE FUKUBUKURO, THERE'RE USED FRAMES FROM PLASTIC MODEL KITS!
I'M IN DESPAIR WITH THESE GOOD FORTUNE BAGS THAT HAVEN'T THE LEAST BIT OF GOOD FORTUNE IN THEM!
I'M IN DESPAIR!
Ojima Pet Shop
FUKU
Ojima Pet Shop
DON'T WORRY, SENSEI.
Ojima Pet Shop
NO, IT CAN'T BE!
PHEW
YEAH, I GUESS THAT MAKES SENSE.
JUST PET FOOD, PET COLLARS, AND STUFF LIKE THAT.
THERE ARE NO ANIMALS IN HERE.

MEOWWWW.
RUSTLE...
Ojima Pet Shop
FUKUBUKURO

I KNEW IT! THEY ARE IN THERE!
WOOF!
Ojima Pet Shop


AND WHAT ARE THOSE BIRD SOUNDS THAT I'VE NEVER HEARD BEFORE?!
PIEW PIEW
PIEW PIEW
PIEW

SEEMS THERE ARE LOTS OF THINGS STUFFED IN THERE.
BHSUUUU
HYUU HYUU
!!
WHAT ANIMAL IS THAT? WHAT ANIMAL IS THAT?

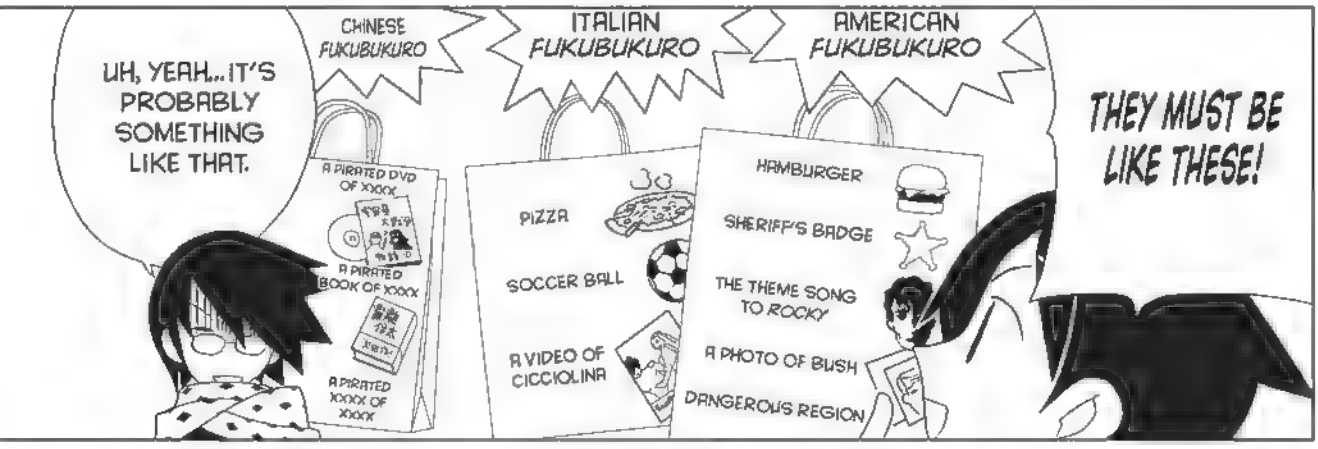
PINK-COLORED PICKLES
SELF-COMPOSED POEMS
THAT ONE FRAME FROM THAT MANGA
BABY'S FALLEN-OUT HAIR
KNEADED ERASERS
A STAR PHOTO OF KWON SEUNG WOO
IN MY COUNTRY, WE PUT THESE KINDS OF THINGS IN OUR FUKUBUKURO.

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN HERE?
THE FUKUBUKURO IN THIS COUNTRY ARE WEIRD!

I'VE ALWAYS WONDERED ABOUT THIS, BUT WHAT COUNTRY DID YOU COME FROM, EXACTLY...?
WE WAIT TILL 2 AM ON THE MORNING OF JANUARY 1ST, TAKE THESE THINGS, PLUS A CAT, AND HURL 'EM ALL INTO OUR NEIGHBOR'S HOUSE. THEN YOU CAN LIVE HAPPILY EVER AFTER.

ALL COUNTRIES DO.
THEY DO HAVE THEM.

TRUE. WE DON'T HEAR MUCH ABOUT IT.
COME TO THINK OF IT, I WONDER IF OTHER COUNTRIES HAVE *FUKUBUKURO*.


UH, YEAH...IT'S PROBABLY SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
CHINESE *FUKUBUKURO*
A PIRATED DVD OF XXXX
A PIRATED BOOK OF XXXX
A PIRATED XXXX OF XXXX
ITALIAN *FUKUBUKURO*
PIZZA
SOCCER BALL
A VIDEO OF CICCIOLINA
AMERICAN *FUKUBUKURO*
HAMBURGER
SHERIFF'S BADGE
THE THEME SONG TO *ROCKY*
A PHOTO OF BUSH
DANGEROUS REGION
THEY MUST BE LIKE THESE!

BUT EVEN AMONG LEFT-OVER DREGS, THERE ARE FABULOUS THINGS!

THIS JUST PROVES THAT *FUKUBUKURO* ARE NOTHING BUT LEFTOVER DREGS.
EITHER WAY, NONE OF THEM HAVE ANYTHING THAT'S PARTICULARLY SPECIAL.

W-WELL... THAT'S TRUE.
IT'S FULL OF NUTRITION, PLUS IT'S DELICIOUS.

THIS ISN'T SUCH A GOOD WAY TO DESCRIBE IT, BUT IT'S MADE FROM LEFTOVER DREGS OF TOFU.
IT CONTAINS *OKARA*.
もさっ
SPLUF

FUJIY
TOFU
FUKUBUKURO
THIS IS A TOFU STORE'S *FUKUBUKURO*.

- WHAT'S LEFT OVER WHEN YOU REFINE RICE → RICE BRAN SOAP
- WHAT'S LEFT OVER WHEN YOU MAKE CHARCOAL → PYROLIGNEOUS ACID (WOOD VINEGAR)
- THE GRAPE SKINS LEFT OVER FROM MAKING WINE → GRAPPA
- THE HUSKS LEFT OVER FROM MAKING SOBA FLOUR → RICE HUSK PILLOWS
- DISCARDED CELL PHONES → GOLD
- LEFTOVER NEW TALENT FROM *SHÔNEN MAGAZINE* → *SHÔNEN SUNDAY*'S STAR CREATORS
- LEFTOVER NEW TALENT FROM *SHÔNEN SUNDAY* → *SHÔNEN JUMP*'S STAR CREATORS (ONCE YOU START WITH THIS ONE, THERE'S NO END TO IT)

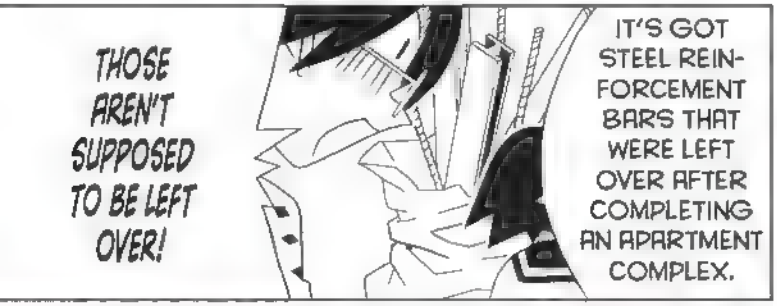
LIKE I THOUGHT, LEFTOVER DREGS CONTAIN GOOD FORTUNE!

EVERY TYPE OF BUSINESS AND EVERY TYPE OF ASSOCIATION SHOULD PUT OUT AS MANY *FUKUBUKURO* AS THEY CAN!
IT'S SUCH A WASTE TO JUST LEAVE SUCH WONDERFUL LEFTOVERS!

I GOT LEFT-OVERS FROM ALL OVER THE PLACE AND STUFFED THESE BAGS WITH 'EM.

THERE ARE COOL THINGS IN HERE, LIKE IWAKUMA...
IT'S A REAL GOOD DEAL, WITH A WHOLE BASEBALL TEAM.
IT'S GOT LEFTOVER BALL PLAYERS.

FUKUBUKURO
BLUEWAVE
HERE'S THE ORIX BUFFALOES *FUKUBUKURO.*


THOSE AREN'T SUPPOSED TO BE LEFT OVER!
IT'S GOT STEEL REIN-FORCEMENT BARS THAT WERE LEFT OVER AFTER COMPLETING AN APARTMENT COMPLEX.

FUKUBUKURO
HERE'S A CON-STRUCTION COMPANY *FUKUBUKURO.*

IN THE OSAKA CITY GOVERNMENT *FUKUBUKURO...*
OSAKA PREFECTURE
embroideries included
...THERE ARE LEFTOVER CIVIL SERVANTS.

IN THE JAPAN SKATING FEDERATION *FUKUBU-KURO...*
...THERE'RE FRAGMENTS OF CHOCOLATE BARS THAT WERE CONVERTED FROM MONEY.

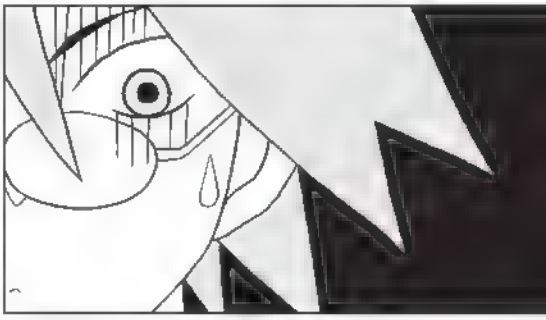
HERE'S A CHINESE RESTAURANT *FUKUBUKURO.* IT'S GOT INGREDIENTS IMPORTED FROM CHINA THAT WERE LEFT OVER.
THERE'S CARP FOOD IN IT.
DOG HEADS
20-30 heads

...FROM MAKING ELECTRICITY.
IT'S GOT THE LEFTOVER DREGS...

FUKUBUKURO
ELECTRIC COMPANY
THESE *FUKUBUKURO* ARE FROM THE ELECTRICAL COMPANY.

ぷらとにゅーむ
PLUTONIUM

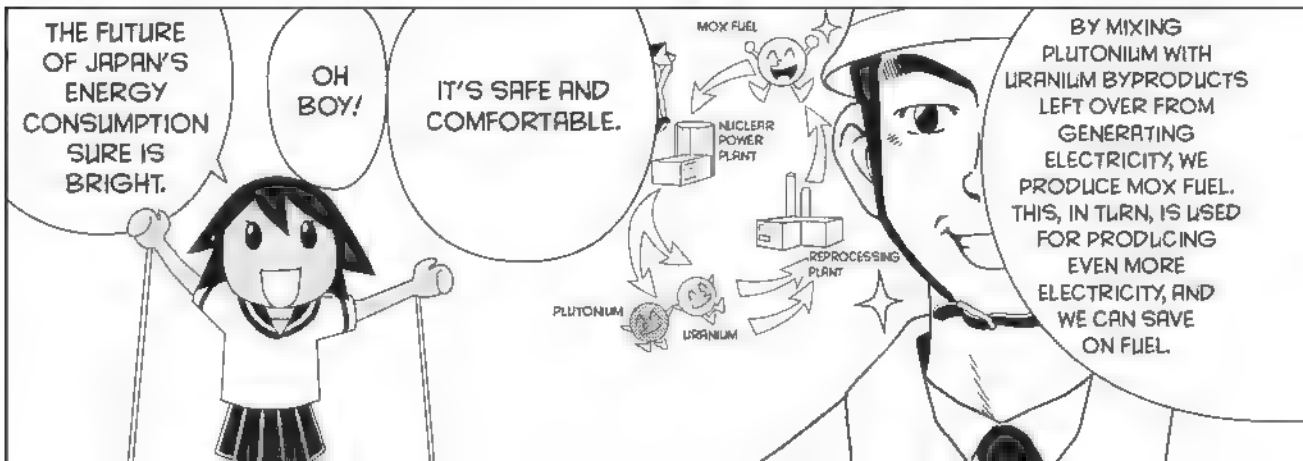
...IT'S REALLY DANGER-OUS.
IT MAY BE LEFTOVERS BUT...



TH-THAT'S TRUE, BUT...!
IT CAN BE REUSED IN MANY WAYS.
SELL IT TO ME.
IN SOME PLACES, IT REAL VALUABLE!

電
IT'S CALLED THE PLUTHERMAL PROGRAM!

WE'RE AIMING TO BUILD EFFICIENT ELECTRICAL POWER STATIONS THAT DON'T PRODUCE SUCH WASTE PRODUCTS.

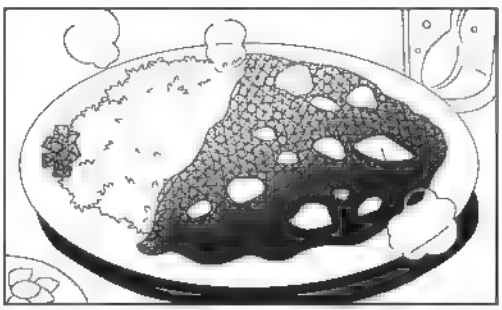

THE FUTURE OF JAPAN'S ENERGY CONSUMPTION SURE IS BRIGHT.
OH BOY!
IT'S SAFE AND COMFORTABLE.
MOX FUEL
NUCLEAR POWER PLANT
REPROCESSING PLANT
PLUTONIUM
URANIUM
BY MIXING PLUTONIUM WITH URANIUM BYPRODUCTS LEFT OVER FROM GENERATING ELECTRICITY, WE PRODUCE MOX FUEL. THIS, IN TURN, IS USED FOR PRODUCING EVEN MORE ELECTRICITY, AND WE CAN SAVE ON FUEL.

PHWEET
BUT IT SEEMS THAT IF YOU DRAW "EDU-MANGA" FOR SUCH ORGANIZATIONS, YOU CAN MAKE A HELL OF A LOT OF MONEY...
DON'T START TALKING LIKE THE PAMPHLETS WRITTEN BY THE ENERGY AGENCY!
AND WHAT'S UP WITH THAT ART STYLE?
UH... GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT. I GOT A LITTLE CARRIED AWAY.
REVERSE YOUR WAYS.
THIS IS A SHÔNEN MAGAZINE, REMEMBER.
SENSEI, YOU'RE LEANING A BIT TOWARD THE SOCIALISTIC SIDE, AND I'M TIRED OF IT.
YOU KNOW, LEFTOVERS.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, LEFT-OVERS?
THERE ARE LEFT-OVERS IN HERE.
THIS IS A PLASTIC SURGERY FUKUBU-KURO.
DOES SENSEI HAVE LEFTOVERS?
I CAN'T STAND LEFTOVERS AT ALL!
YOUR SENSEI DEFINITELY HAS NO LEFTOVERS!
NO, I DON'T!
わんわ〜ああ
NOOOOOOO

SHHF
カラッ
HELLO. COME IN.
I'M A COLLEGE STUDENT WHO LIVES NEXT DOOR.
DING DONG
コンコン
GOOD EVENING.

PLEASE HAVE SOME, IF YOU'D LIKE IT.
I MADE TOO MUCH CURRY, AND THERE WAS SOME LEFT OVER.

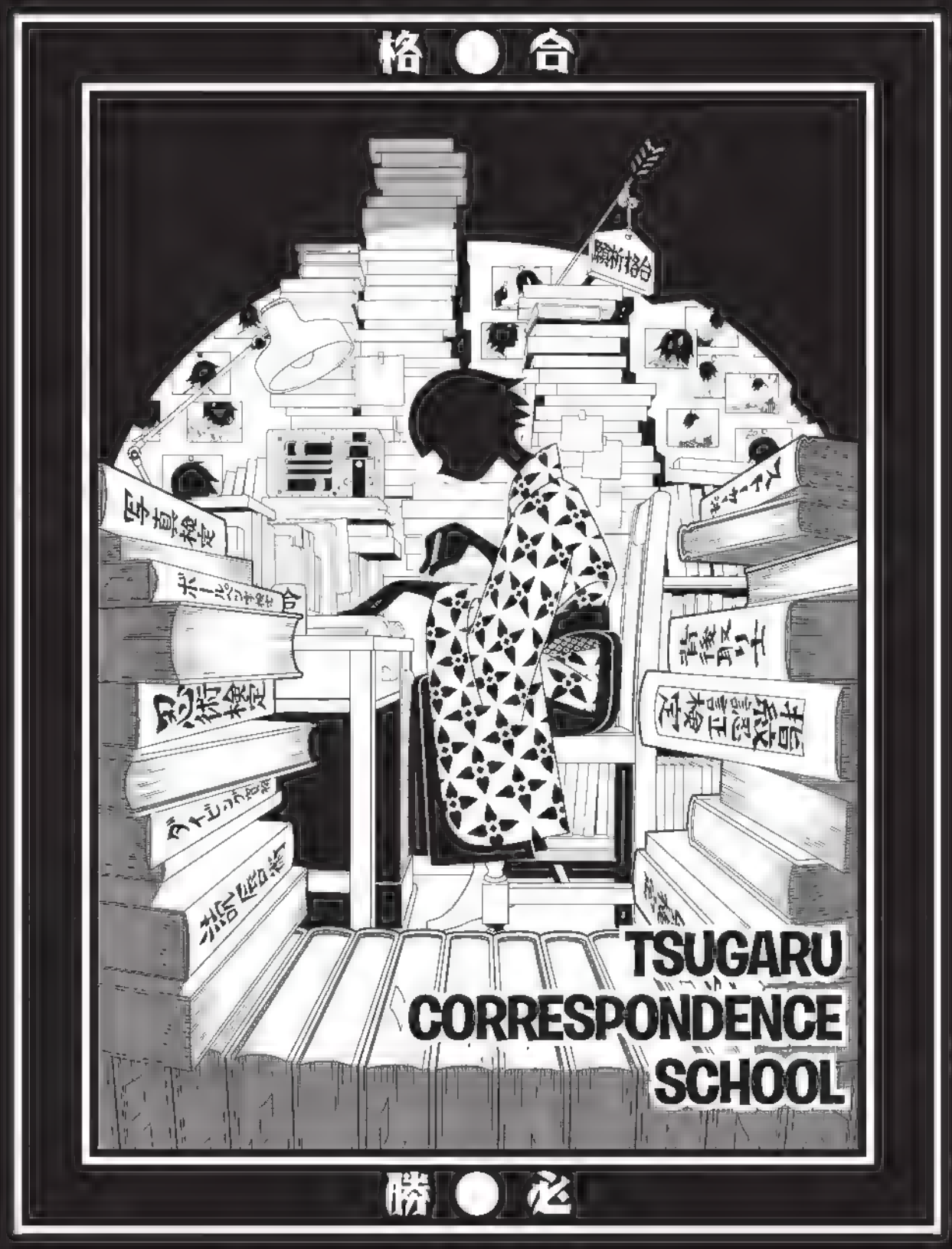
...IN THINGS THAT ARE LEFT OVER.
SO... THERE IS GOOD FORTUNE...
ふ HMM



HIS CONVICTION IS SUCH THAT HE CAN BE SWAYED BY JUST SOME CURRY COOKED BY A COLLEGE STUDENT.
MAYBE SOME OF THESE THINGS ARE FOR REAL.

LIKE I THOUGHT, THERE'S NO GOOD FORTUNE.
DID YOU EAT SOME STALE FOOD, PERHAPS?

SHEESH. THEY'RE YOUR LEFT-OVERS OF HER LEFT-OVERS!
HERE, YOU HAVE SOME, TOO.



CHAPTER 36

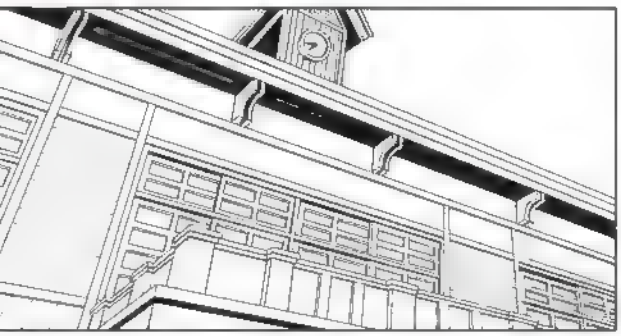
喫茶
アミーゴ
COFFEE
営業中
喫茶
アミーゴ
カポミン
RRGG
イラ
イラ
RRGG
イラ
イラ
RRGG
CLACK
格

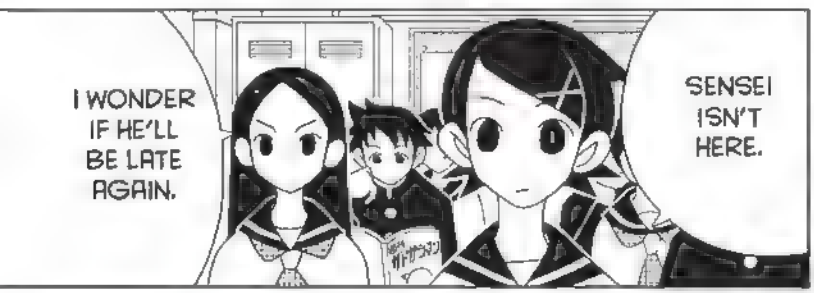
WHAM
QUIT MAKING SO MUCH NOISE!
QUIT BREATHING!
YOU'RE MAKING TOO MUCH NOISE! YOUR GLASSES MAKE CLICKING NOISES EVERY TIME YOU BREATHE!
W-WHA...
WHAT WAS THAT FOR?! WHY'D YOU HIT ME?!
MISTER...
CALM DOWN, SENSEI. PLEASE FORGIVE HIM.
THERE'S NO REASON FOR DOING THINGS LIKE THAT! THAT'S UNFORGIV-ABLE!
ON TOP OF THAT, YOUR CUP KEEPS CLACK-ING!
HE'S A STUDENT PREPARING FOR HIS ENTRANCE EXAM.

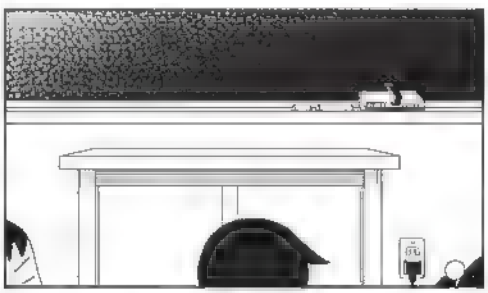
COFFEE
THAT'S NOT QUITE CONVINCING, BUT I GUESS I'LL LET IT GO.
HMM...
HE'S A STUDENT GETTING READY FOR HIS EXAMS, SO IT CAN'T BE HELPED.

HE'S A STUDENT STUDYING FOR EXAMS; HE CAN'T HELP IT.

HE'S A STUDENT STUDYING FOR EXAMS; HE CAN'T HELP IT.




I WONDER IF HE'LL BE LATE AGAIN.
SENSEI ISN'T HERE.



SENSEI! YOU HAVE TO COME TO CLASS IN A TIMELY FASHION!

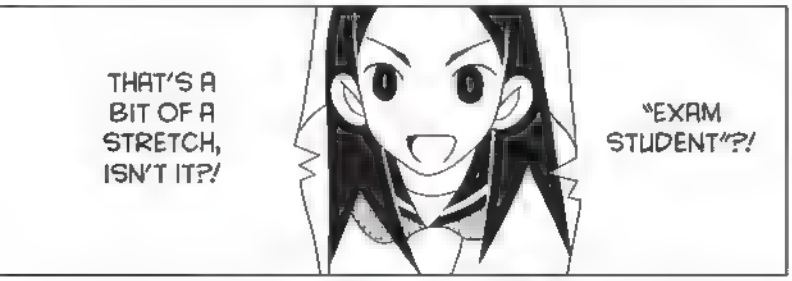
OH, THERE HE IS.
ガラッ
SHFF...

I'M A STUDENT GETTING READY FOR MY EXAMS...
...SO I CAN'T HELP BEING LATE!
WHAT?!
IN JAPAN, STUDENTS TAKING EXAMS ARE ALLOWED TO GET AWAY WITH NEARLY ANYTHING.
THAT'S WHY I'VE DECIDED TO BE A "STUDENT PREPARING FOR EXAMS" FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE.

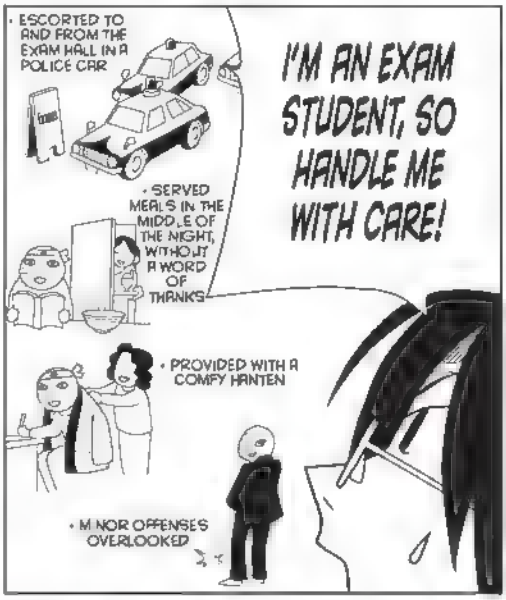
AND OVERLOOK ANY MISTAKES I MAKE!
FROM NOW ON, YOU HAVE TO TAKE GOOD CARE OF ME!

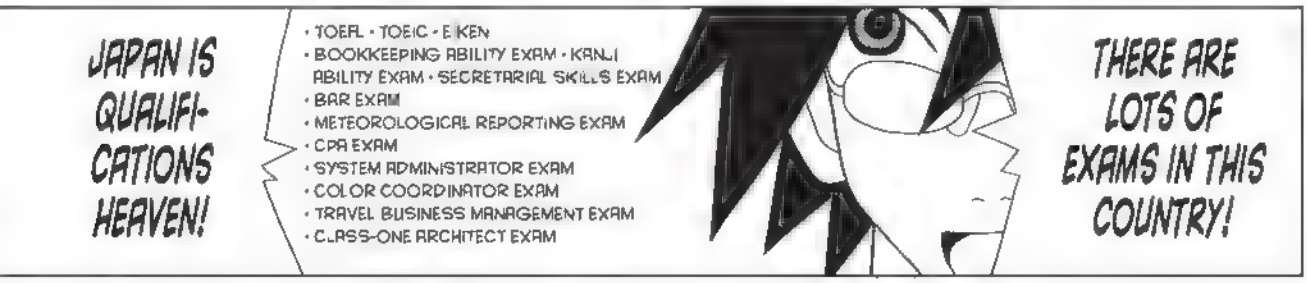
I'M A STUDENT PREPARING FOR EXAMS. IF YOU UPSET ME IN EVEN THE SLIGHTEST WAY, I'LL BECOME A MENACE TO SOCIETY!
WATCH WHAT YOU SAY!

STUPID?!
DON'T SAY SUCH STUPID THINGS!

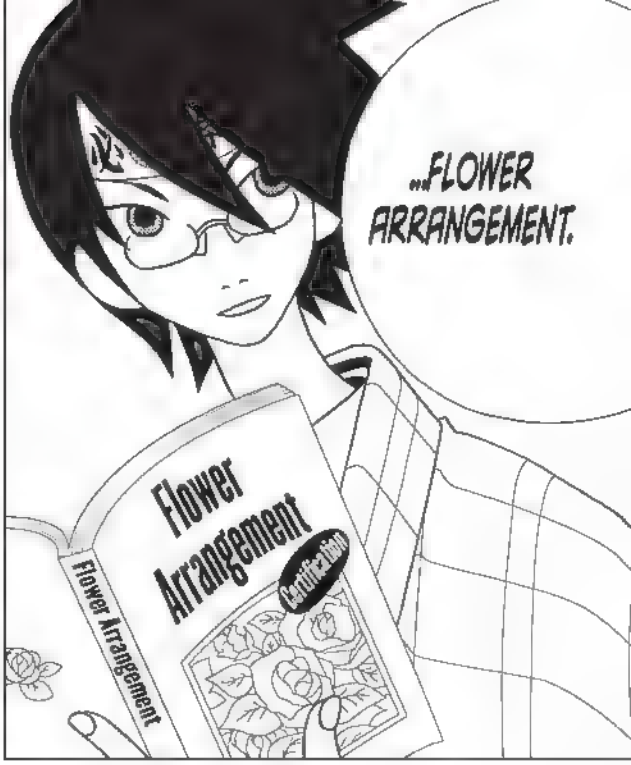

THAT'S A BIT OF A STRETCH, ISN'T IT?!
"EXAM STUDENT"?!

NOPE. I HAPPEN TO BE RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF AN EXAM.
YOUR DAYS OF BEING AN EXAM STUDENT ARE LONG GONE!


• ESCORTED TO AND FROM THE EXAM HALL IN A POLICE CAR
• SERVED MEALS IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT, WITHOUT A WORD OF THANKS
• PROVIDED WITH A COMFY HANTEN
• MINOR OFFENSES OVERLOOKED
I'M AN EXAM STUDENT, SO HANDLE ME WITH CARE!


JAPAN IS QUALIFI-CATIONS HEAVEN!
• TOEFL • TOEIC • EIKEN
• BOOKKEEPING ABILITY EXAM • KANJI ABILITY EXAM • SECRETARIAL SKILLS EXAM
• BAR EXAM
• METEOROLOGICAL REPORTING EXAM
• CPA EXAM
• SYSTEM ADMINISTRATOR EXAM
• COLOR COORDINATOR EXAM
• TRAVEL BUSINESS MANAGEMENT EXAM
• CLASS-ONE ARCHITECT EXAM
THERE ARE LOTS OF EXAMS IN THIS COUNTRY!

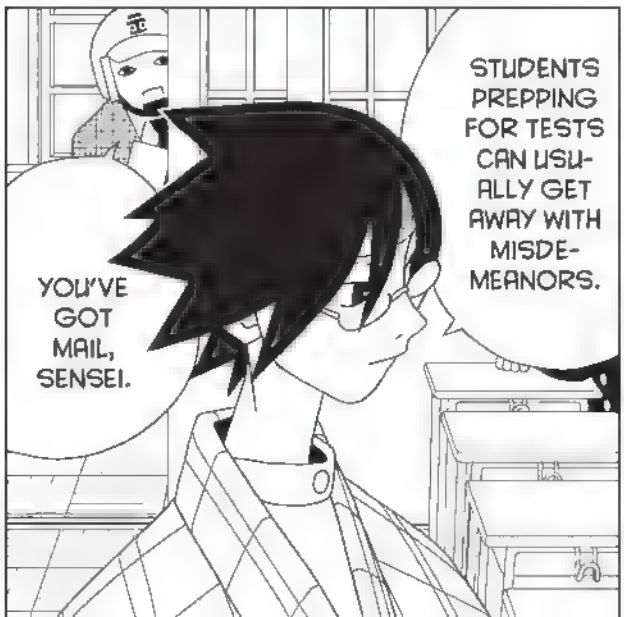
ER... WELL... AT THE MOMENT I'M TAKING AN EXAM FOR...
THEN WHAT ARE YOU TAKING AN EXAM FOR NOW?

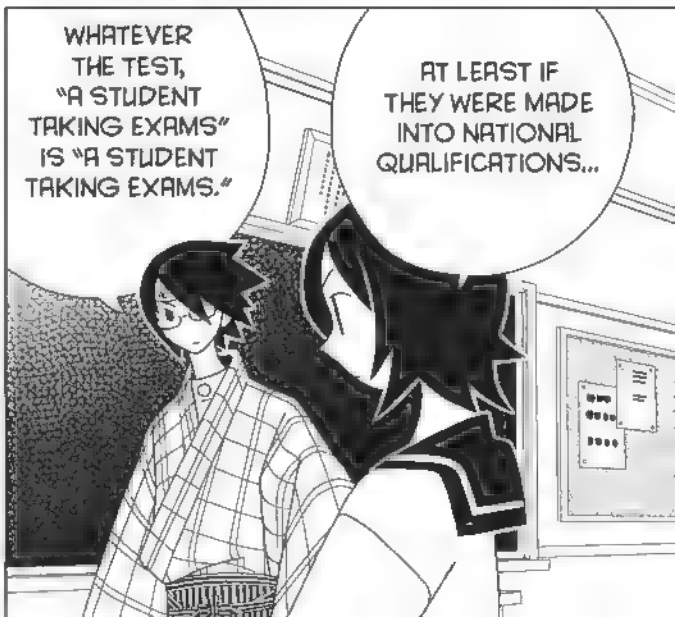


I'M A STUDENT STUDYING FOR EXAMS, SO GO EASY ON ME.
YOU CAN'T CALL YOURSELF A "STUDENT STUDYING FOR EXAMS" WHEN YOU'RE STUDYING *THAT!*

I WON'T APOLOGIZE!
APOLOGIZE TO ALL THE PEOPLE ACROSS JAPAN WHO ARE STUDYING FOR THEIR FLOWER ARRANGEMENT CERTIFICATION!

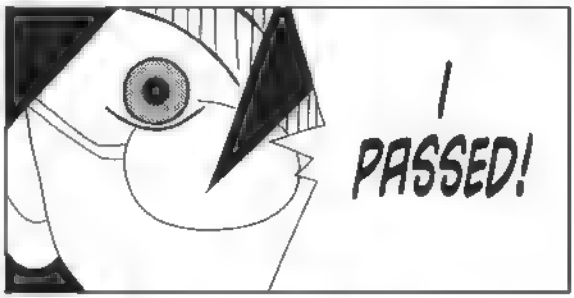
- THE NATIONAL UNIFIED OTAKU QUALIFYING EXAM
- TOKYO SIGHTSEEING CULTURAL QUALIFYING EXAM
- INTERNET RULES & MANNERS QUALIFYING EXAM
- RAILROAD TRAVEL QUALIFYING EXAM
- NAMAHAGE QUALIFICATION TRIALS
- HAKATAKKO CERTIFICATION TEST
- SAKE EXPERT TEST • SUPERMARKET QUALIFYING EXAM
- AKASHI TAKO QUALIFYING EXAM • FESTIVAL QUALIFYING EXAM
- FABRE EXAMS • ADULT QUALIFYING EXAM

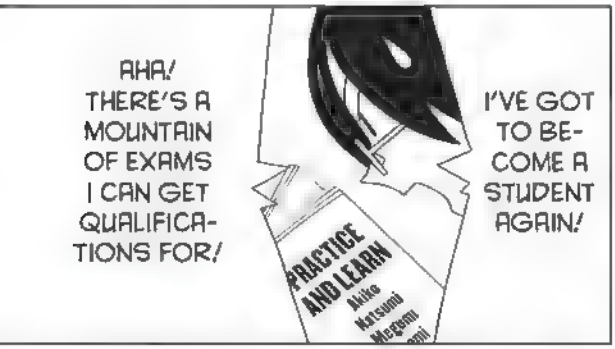


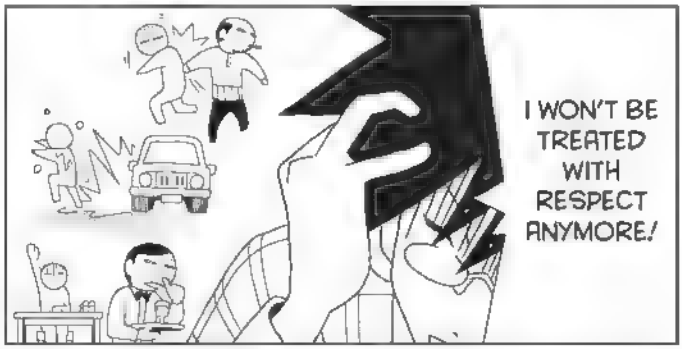

WHATEVER THE TEST, "A STUDENT TAKING EXAMS" IS "A STUDENT TAKING EXAMS."
AT LEAST IF THEY WERE MADE INTO NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS...

GA-
BOING
Flower Arrangement
PASSED
Nozomu Itoshiki
This certificate is proof of profession
level training in Ikebana
(flower arrangeme

なあああああ
NOOOOOOO
I'M NO LONGER A STUDENT!

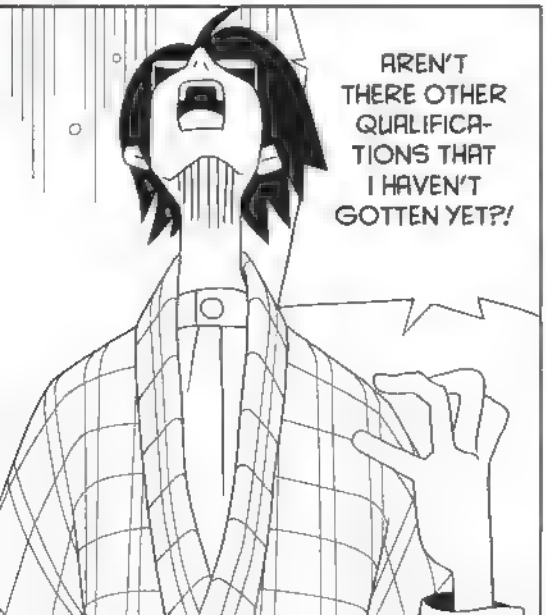

I PASSED!

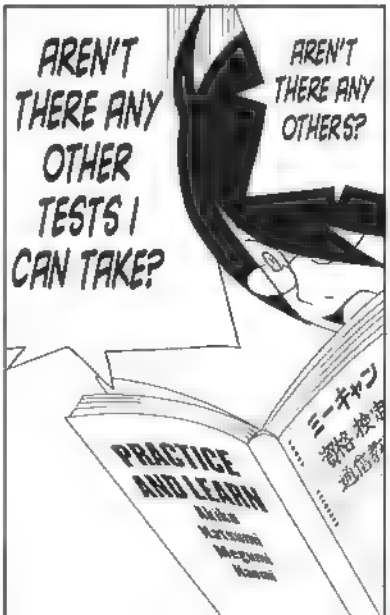

AHA! THERE'S A MOUNTAIN OF EXAMS I CAN GET QUALIFICATIONS FOR!
I'VE GOT TO BECOME A STUDENT AGAIN!
PRACTICE AND LEARN
Akiko Katsumi
Megumi

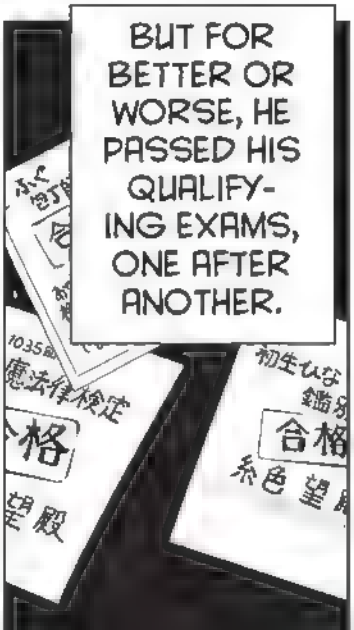

I WON'T BE TREATED WITH RESPECT ANYMORE!

CERTIFICATE
Professor of Time Schedules
NOZOMU ITOSHIKI

I'M TAKING A TIME SCHEDULE QUALIFYING TEST.
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO BE A STUDENT OF NEXT?


AREN'T THERE OTHER QUALIFICATIONS THAT I HAVEN'T GOTTEN YET?!


AREN'T THERE ANY OTHER TESTS I CAN TAKE?
AREN'T THERE ANY OTHERS?
PRACTICE AND LEARN


BUT FOR BETTER OR WORSE, HE PASSED HIS QUALIFYING EXAMS, ONE AFTER ANOTHER.
合格

SENSEI, YOU AREN'T QUALIFIED TO TAKE CARE OF ANIMALS.
BUT IF I'M NOT QUALIFIED, I SHOULD GET QUALIFIED.
I DON'T REMEMBER TAKING RESPONSIBILITY FOR THAT.
GROAN
SINCE YOU DIDN'T TAKE GOOD CARE OF THIS, IT'S BECOME DRY AND WRINKLED.
GA-BOING
WHO'S SUPPOSED TO BE TAKING TESTS AND WHO'S SUPPOSED TO BE GIVING THEM AROUND HERE ANYWAY?
I PASSED.
certificate
NOZOMU TOSHIKI
MAYBE IT'S THIS ONE, "PET BREEDER'S CERTIFICATION."
I'M GLAD THERE'S AN EXAM I CAN TAKE.
...YOU HAVE NO QUALIFICATIONS TO LOVE ANYONE!
SENSEI...
SENSEI...
HUH?
SHF

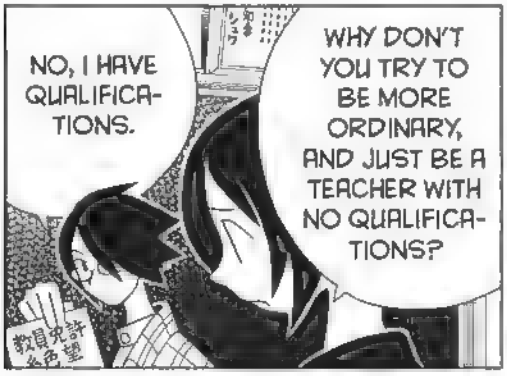
I DON'T REMEMBER LOVING HER.
IF I'M NOT QUALIFIED, I'D BETTER GET QUALIFIED.
...AND YOU GET INVOLVED WITH A COLLEGE STUDENT NEXT DOOR WHO GIVES YOU CURRY RICE!
A PRETTY GIRL LIKE ME IS AVAILABLE...
GA-BOING

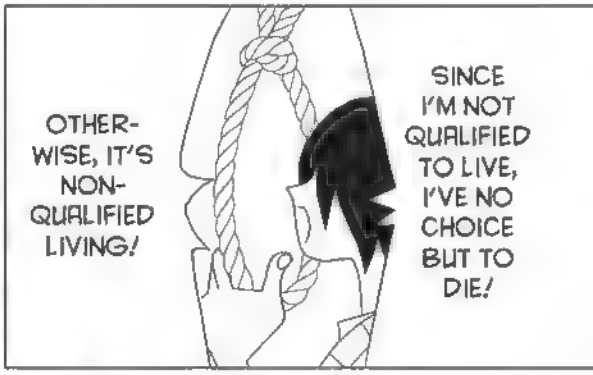
...BUT THIS IS JUST ABOUT ALL I COULD FIND.
L-LIKE THIS?
I FEEL THERE'S SOME-THING A BIT SHADY HERE...
...AREN'T QUALIFIED TO LOVE ANYONE!
Mr. K. Taka's Lecture on Super Fingering Techniques
THOSE WHO CAN'T SATISFY A WOMAN...

HEH...
PLEASED
DON'T DO THAT.
I PASSED AGAIN!
SUPER FINGERIN TECHNIQUES
PASSED
Congratulations! You are now a graduate of Mr. K. Taka's advanced

ANY MORE CERTIFICATIONS THAT I HAVEN'T GOTTEN?!
FLIP FLIP FLIP
ばら ばら
ARE THERE ANY MORE TESTS I CAN TAKE?
WHAT?
BUT YOU KNOW, IT'S KIND OF FUN GETTING CERTIFICA-TIONS.

I-I...
I JUST REALIZED SOMETHING VERY IMPORTANT.
GASP!
...YOU'VE TURNED INTO A QUALIFICATION-GETTING MANIAC!
RATHER THAN AN EXAM STUDENT...
WHAT IS THERE THAT I HAVEN'T GOTTEN?!



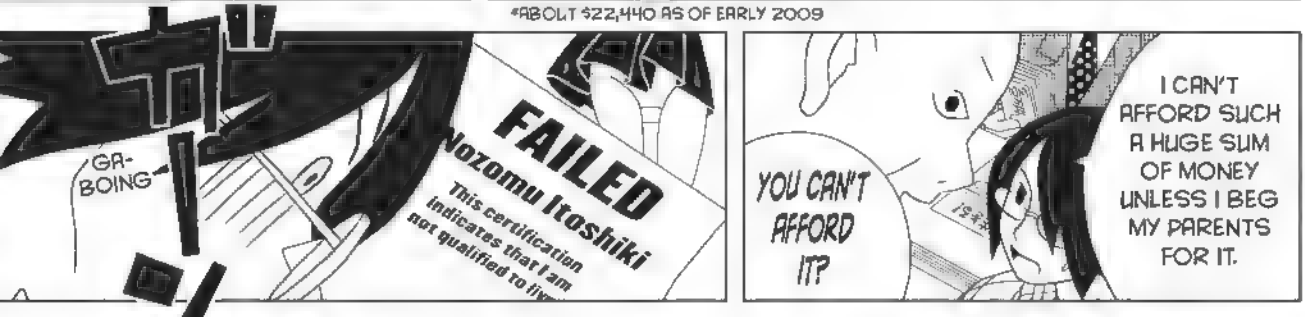


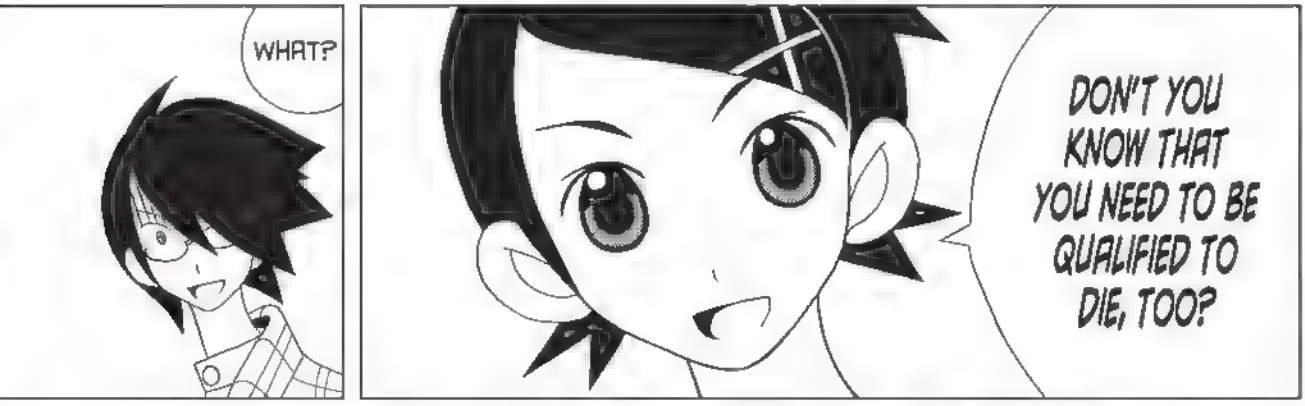
Lecture No. 4

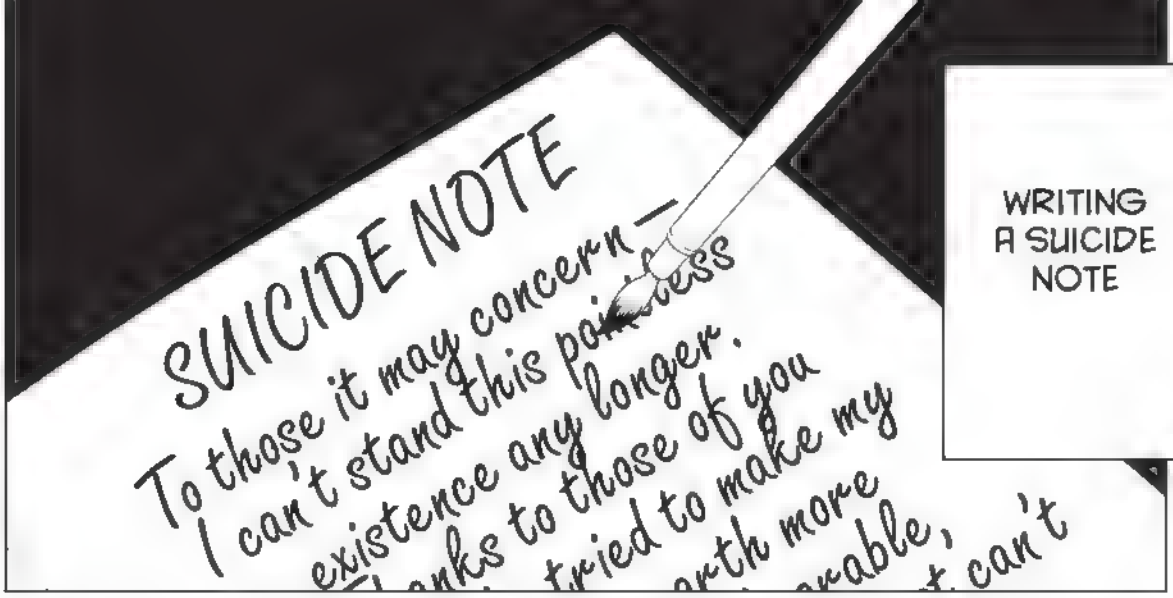
Qualifications for Living

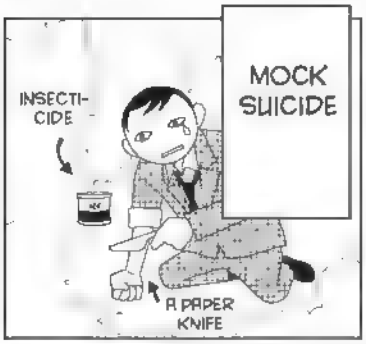
...HAVE BEEN TOLD MANY TIMES THAT I HAVE LESS JUSTIFICATION TO LIVE THAN ANYBODY.
NEVER MIND THAT I, MYSELF...
ALL THIS FOR A MERE 2,000,000¥/*
WHEN YOU BUY THIS LUCKY BUDDHA FROM OUR RELIGIOUS GROUP, YOUR SINS WILL BE FORGIVEN, AND YOUR LIFE WILL BE JUSTIFIED!

*ABOUT $22,440 AS OF EARLY 2009


GA-BOING
FAILED
Nozomu Itoshiki
This certification indicates that I am not qualified to fly
YOU CAN'T AFFORD IT?
I CAN'T AFFORD SUCH A HUGE SUM OF MONEY UNLESS I BEG MY PARENTS FOR IT.



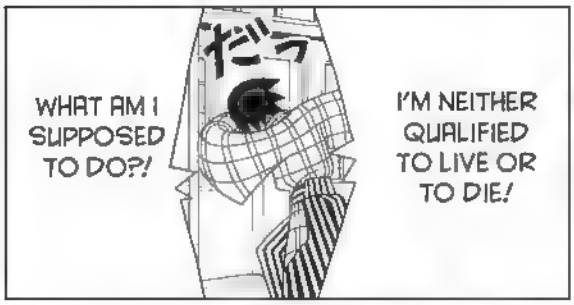

SUICIDE NOTE
To those it may concern—
I can't stand this pointless
existence any longer.
Thanks to those of you
who tried to make my
WRITING A SUICIDE NOTE


MOCK SUICIDE
INSECTI-CIDE
A PAPER KNIFE

HOW TO LEAVE YOUR SHOES (LECTURE ON MANNERS)

DIVING LICENSE (FOR JUMPING OFF CLIFFS)

LICENSES REQUIRED IN ORDER TO DIE
• SMALL CRAFT PILOT'S LICENSE (FOR CROSSING THE SANZU RIVER)
• MAKEUP ARTIST (FOR YOUR CORPSE)
• AROMATHERAPY (BRIQUETS)
• VOICE ACTOR FOR A DEATH CRY
• CONVERSATIONAL HEAVEN LANGUAGE
• PHOTO (FOR ONE'S FUNERAL)
THESE DAYS, EVEN DYING IS DIFFICULT!

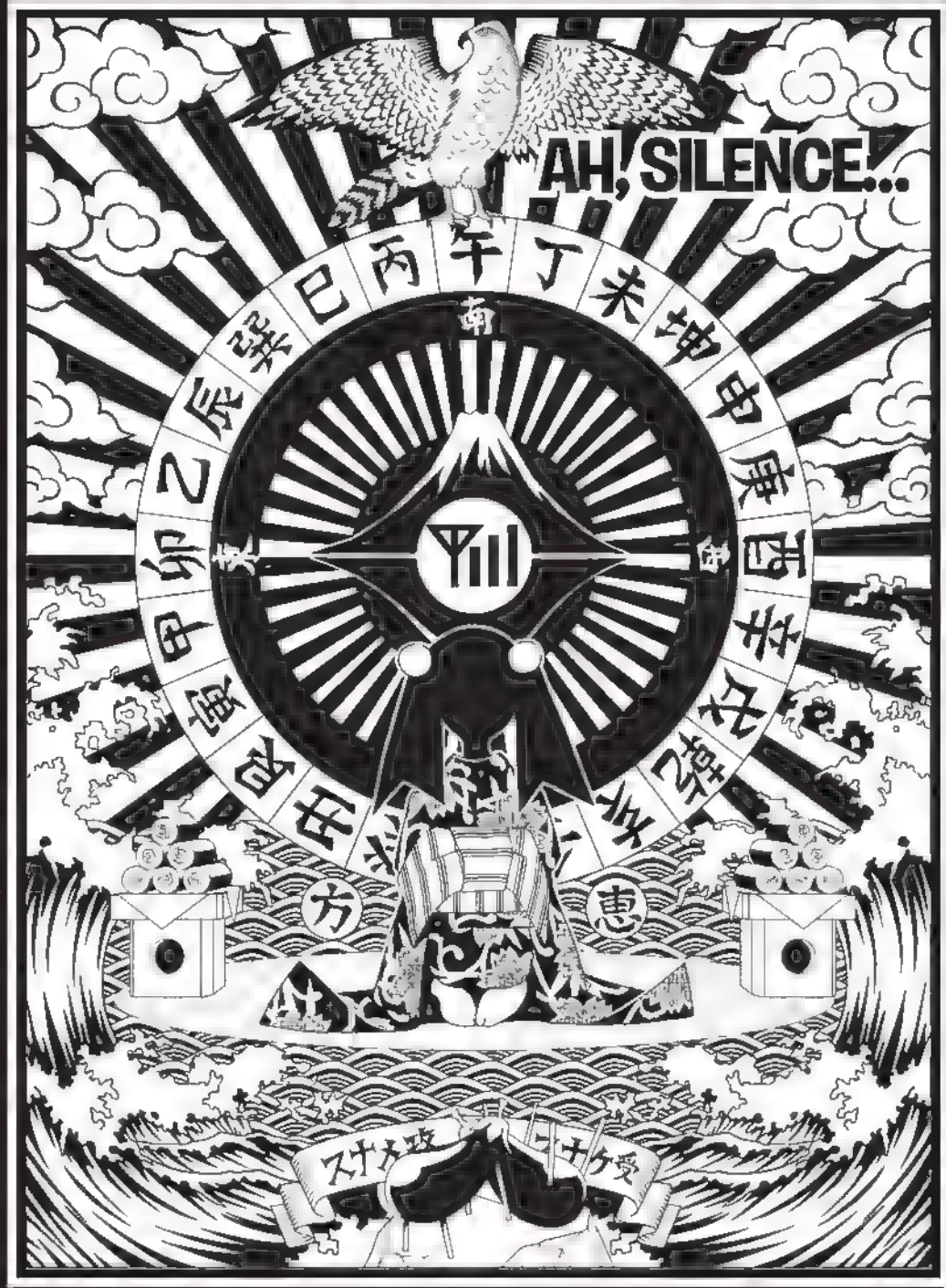

だら
WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO?!
I'M NEITHER QUALIFIED TO LIVE OR TO DIE!

GAH!
Qualification for Dying
FAILED
You aren't qualified to die!

...AS THOUGH I'M DEAD.
SO I'M LIVING MY LIFE...

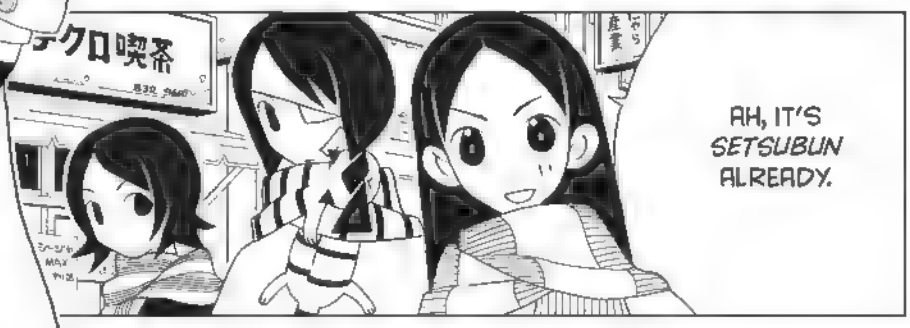
I CAN'T DIE...
I CAN'T LIVE...
SO?

HE'S NOT PEEPING. HE'S CHEATING ON HIS "HOW TO LOVE PEOPLE" QUALIFICATION EXAM.



CHAPTER 37

味皇ビル
東山
探偵事務所
節分セール
節分
恵方巻
鳳寿司
恵方巻


AH, IT'S SETSUBUN ALREADY.

RIN-CHAN...
IT'S MY BROTHER!
EVERYONE! THERE'S A BIG PROBLEM!

MY BROTHER'S COME HOME, BUT HE WON'T SAY A WORD TO ANYBODY!

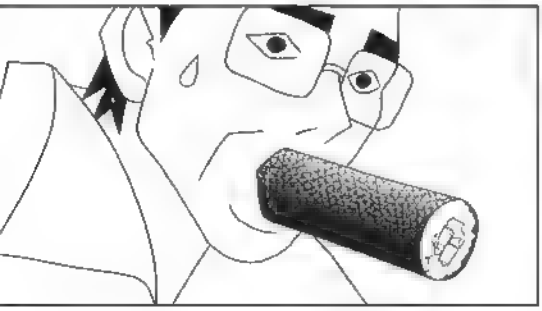
EHOMAKI

ON THE DAY OF *SETSUBUN* (FEBRUARY 3), THERE IS AN OLD CUSTOM TO FACE IN THE "LUCKY DIRECTION" (*EHO*), A COMPASS DIRECTION THAT IS DETERMINED ANEW BY DIVINATION EACH YEAR. WHILE FACING THE "LUCKY DIRECTION," YOU MUST SIT SILENTLY AND EAT SPECIALLY PREPARED *FUTOMAKI* (SUSHI ROLLS) WHILE THINKING ABOUT YOUR HOPES AND DREAMS. IF YOU DO ALL THIS, IT WILL BRING GOOD FORTUNE.

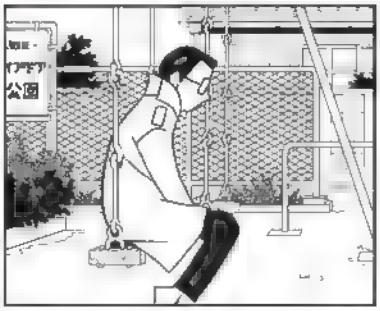
YOU SEE, WHILE YOU'RE EATING IT, YOU CAN'T SAY A WORD.
YOU JUST SCARED US FOR NO REASON!
SO, THAT'S WHY HE WOULDN'T SAY A WORD TO ANY-BODY.
NOWADAYS, PEOPLE JUST TALK AND TALK, AND END UP SLIPPING UP AND SAYING SOMETHING WRONG...
SILENCE IS A GOOD THING.
• "I WASN'T SLEEPING"
• "JAPAN IS GOD'S COUNTRY"
• "I SHOPLIFTED THE WHOLE THING— BOX AND ALL"
• "I'M A REAL B G SHOT, YOU SEE"
• "I GO TO THE TO LET DURING COMMERCIALS"
• "ON YEARS THAT CHUNICHI WINS, NOTH NG GOOD HAPPENS"
• "MY YOUNGER SISTER HAD A COMING-OF- AGE CELEBRATION"
• "NOW, THE VACANCY LEFT BY ETOU HAS BEEN FILLED"
• "ONOMICHI- SAN, PLEASE TAKE CARE OF HORIE-KUN"
THINGS THAT SHOULDN'T HAVE BEEN SAID!

TAKE A LOOK AT THAT!
TODAY, AS LONG AS I'M EATING THIS, I WON'T BE ASKED ANY QUESTIONS.
THIS TRADITIONAL CULTURAL OCCASION GUARANTEES MY RIGHT TO KEEP SILENT.
BOSS! PLEASE GIVE THEM AN ANSWER! [ASKING THE COMPANY PRESIDENT TO TALK]
.....
THERE'S NO WAY THAT'S REAL!
AS LONG AS HE'S EATING, HE'S GOT THE RIGHT TO REMAIN SILENT.
.....
もご MUMBLE もご MUMBLE
WHAT'S HER NAME?
WHO'S THIS NEW WOMAN YOU'VE BEEN SEEN WITH?
871-SP
TEIKYO SPORTS
PASSIONATE LOVE
EXCLUSIVE!
LOVE GETAWAY
SHOCKING
AN OUTPOUR OF KISSING PHOTOS!

.....



HONEY, WHY AREN'T YOU AT WORK?

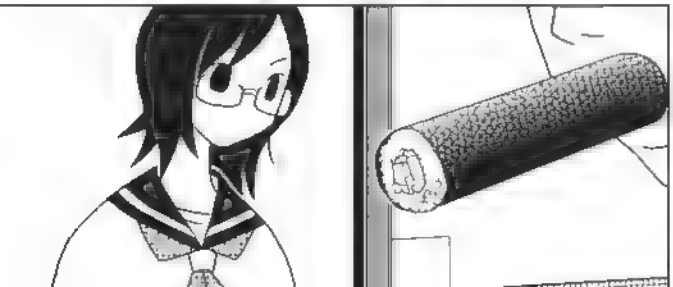


• REAL INTENTIONS TOWARD OTHER COUNTRIES
• GAY OR STRAIGHT?
• THE SALES N JAPAN FOR THE XBOX 360
• THE HAPPENING AT ANATAHAN ISLAND
BY USING A FUTOMAKI ROLL, YOU DON'T HAVE TO TALK ABOUT THINGS YOU DON'T WANT TO.

ANSWER ME, SENSEI!
WHOSE LIPSTICK IS THIS?

HEY, SENSEI. WHAT'S THIS?

.....
AHA! IT BELONGS TO THAT COLLEGE STUDENT WHO LIVES NEXT DOOR, DOESN'T IT?



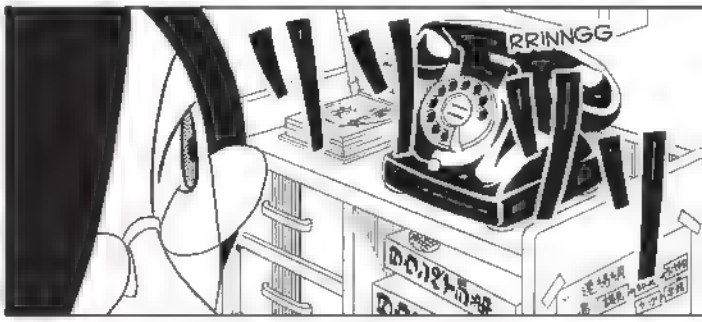
.....

OH.... NOTHING, REALLY.... NOTHING.
I PROMISE I WON'T USE IT FOR REFERENCE.
WHAT'RE YOU GRINNING ABOUT?

ニヤリ
SMIRK

UM... WELL... I COULDN'T TALK AND EAT AT THE SAME TIME, SO THAT'S WHY I DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING.
ごくん
GULP

HELLO?


RRINNGG

.....

HELLO...? IS ANY-BODY THERE?
.....

OF COURSE. THEY WERE PROBABLY EATING AN EHOMAKI TOO.

はっ
GASP

ガチャン
SLAM
ANOTHER SILENT PHONE CALL?!

TODAY, ALL OVER JAPAN, STALKERS AND PEOPLE HAVING ILLICIT LOVE AFFAIRS ARE MAKING TONS OF SILENT PHONE CALLS.

IF THAT'S THE CASE, IT COULDN'T BE HELPED.

NORTH
EAST
SOUTH
EHO (LUCKY DIRECTION)

YOU ALSO HAVE TO FACE IN THE PROPER DIRECTION WHILE EATING ONE.

...BUT BEING SILENT ISN'T THE ONLY THING THAT COMES WITH AN *EHOMAKI*.

YOU'VE BEEN SAYING "SILENT, SILENT" ALL ALONG...

...SOUTH BY SOUTH-EAST!

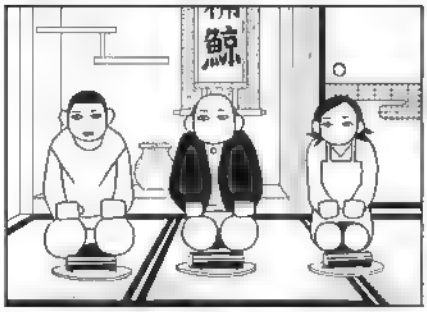
THIS YEAR, THE *EHO* IS...

北 白 甲 一白 東 二碧 南 七赤 二黒 巽 巳 丁 午 丙

SOUTH-SOUTHEAST FROM JAPAN

7,000 km

NEW CALEDONIA



THE ISLAND CLOSEST TO HEAVEN

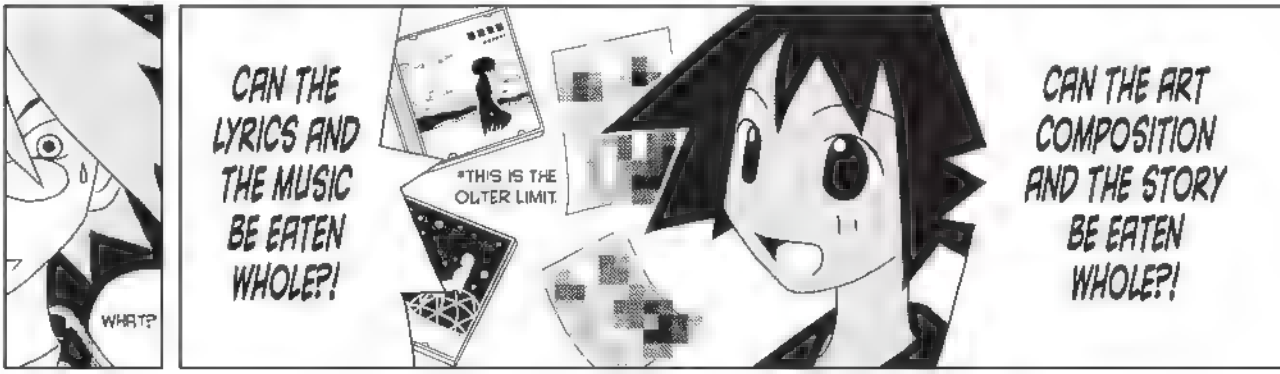
AIMING TOWARD EHO

MILLIONS OF JAPANESE PEOPLE SILENTLY EATING *EHOMAKI*, FACING NEW CALEDONIA...
WHEN YOU THINK OF IT THAT WAY, IT'S A STRANGE CUSTOM.

きっ
STARE
IT'S NOT JUST NEW CALEDONIA THAT'S SOUTH-SOUTHEAST FROM HERE!
WAIT JUST A MINUTE!

CLAIRVOYANCE
HEADING SOUTH-SOUTH-EAST...
FOCUS
IT'S JUST A HALLU-CINATION, RIGHT?
THIS IS JUST AN OPTICAL ILLUSION, RIGHT?
RIO DE JANEIRO
ANTARCTICA
NEW ZEALAND
NEW CALEDONIA
VLADIVOSTOK
IRELAND
WELL... I KIND OF EXPECTED THAT.
IN THE END, I JUST SAW MY OWN BACK.
...SO THEY'VE GOT TO BE EATEN WHOLE.
THEY SAY IT'S UNLUCKY TO SLICE THEM...
WHY DON'T YOU SLICE THEM FOR HER SO SHE CAN EAT THEM PROPERLY?
GEE, MATARO HAS BAD MANNERS.

CAN I EAT IT WHOLE?
WELL...
EAT 'EM WHOLE.

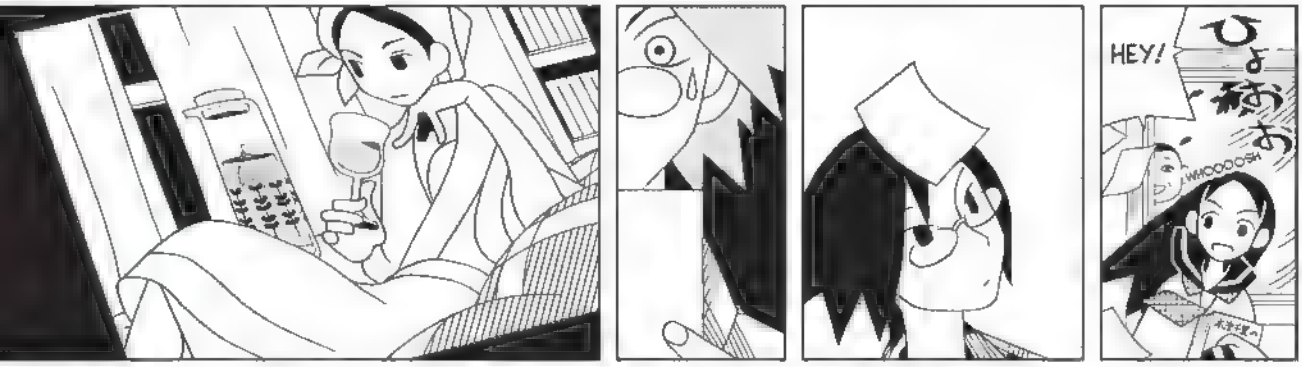

WHAT?
CAN THE LYRICS AND THE MUSIC BE EATEN WHOLE?!
*THIS IS THE OUTER LIMIT.
CAN THE ART COMPOSITION AND THE STORY BE EATEN WHOLE?!

THRUST
がぽっ
YOU'LL MAKE ENEMIES, SO HERE!
CAN THE CHARACTERS THAT ARE CONSUMED WHOLE BE SOLD AS THE ORIGINALS?
NOT JUST SONGS, BUT CAN THE MUSIC VIDEO BE EATEN WHOLE?

IT SEEMS THEY ALSO CAN BE USED AS MOUTH PLUGS.
MMGG
もほが
MMGG
もほが
HMM...
...IS NOT A LUCKY DIREC-TION FOR US.
TO TAKE IT IN THAT DIRECTION...

...AND YOU PLUG 'EM UP!
YOU FIND PEOPLE WHO KNOW TOO MUCH...
YOU JUST GAVE ME A GOOD IDEA.

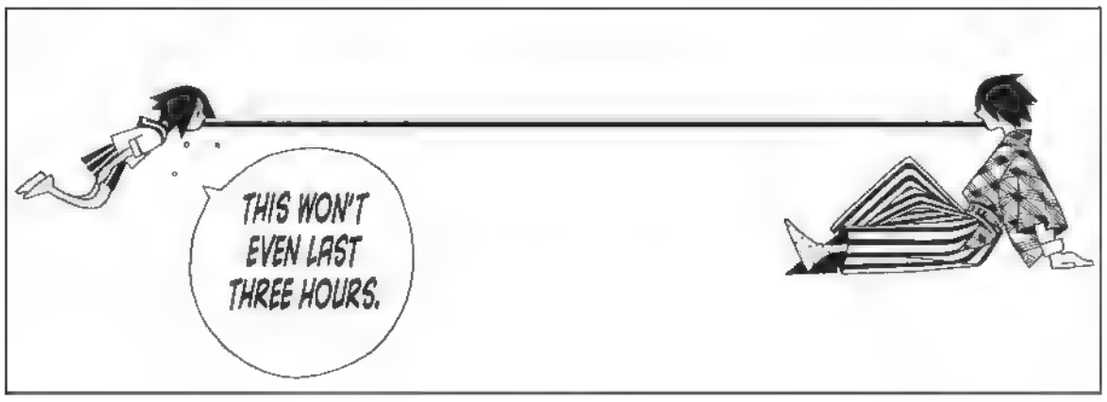
EVEN IF YOU CAN PLUG THEM UP, IT ONLY LASTS ONE DAY...
• SILENCE THE PERSON WHO KNOWS THAT THE AZUKI BEANS WERE EATEN AS IS
• SILENCE THE PERSON WHO KNOWS THAT THE IDOL WITH GLASSES, T.A., HAS 1.5 VISION
• SILENCE THE PERSON WHO KNOWS THE ANCHORWOMAN WAS LIVING IN SIN
• SILENCE THE PERSON WHO KNOWS WHAT'S INSIDE THE SOUP
• SILENCE THE PERSON WHO KNOWS FIGURE SKATING'S SELECTION PROCESS
• SILENCE THE PERSON WHO KNOWS HOW TO READ THE PONEGLYPH LANGUAGE
• SILENCE THE PERSON WHO KNOWS THE GENDER OF THE PRINCESS KNIGHT
• SILENCE THE PERSON WHO KNOW WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF THE HOT SPRINGS TOWN MAKIZONO MACHI IS READ BACKWARD
モガ" MMGG
MMGG モガ"
IF A PHEASANT WON'T SQUAWK, IT WON'T GET SHOT!


HEY!
ひょわわ
WHOOOSH

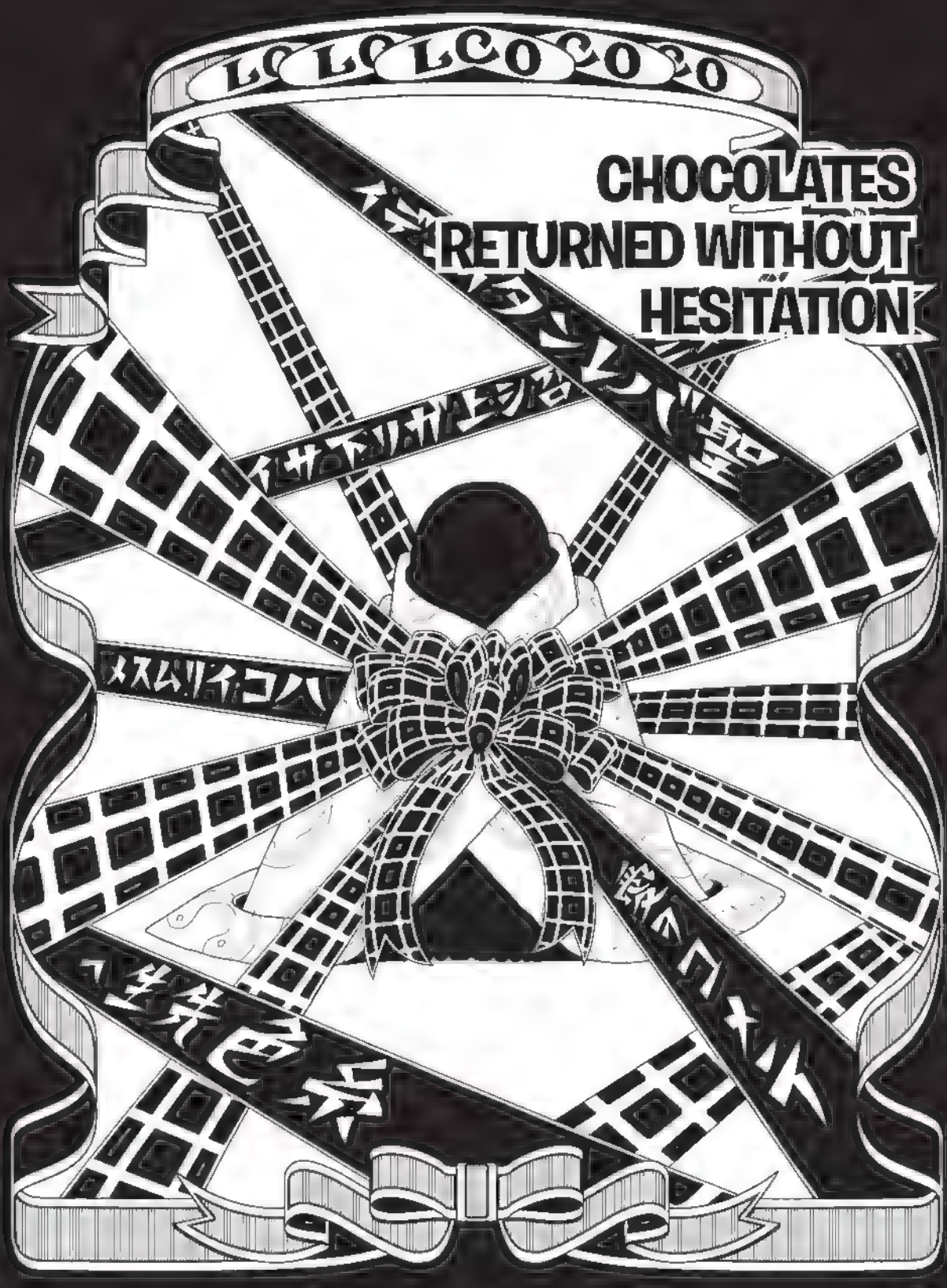
...I SIP BARLEY TEA IN A WINE GLASS AND MAKE-BELIEVE I'M AN ARISTOCRATIC WOMAN!
WHEN I'M AT HOME BY MYSELF...
EEP!
YOU'VE FOUND MY SECRET.

ONCE YOU'VE FINISHED THAT, YOU'RE PLANNING TO TELL EVERYONE, AREN'T YOU?
WAIT!
かぽ
THRUST
MOUTH PLUG!
I...I WON'T TELL ANYONE!
I CAN'T TRUST YOU!

かぽ
THRUST
EAT THIS INSTEAD!
I WON'T LET YOU DO THAT!
PLUCK
ぽん


THIS WON'T EVEN LAST THREE HOURS.

...YOUR MOUTH WILL BE PLUGGED FOR THREE DAYS.
NOW...
...MAYBE IT'D BE BETTER TO USE A ROLLED UP MAKI-SU SO I CAN PLUG UP YOUR MOUTH FOREVER... CLEAN AND PRECISE.
RATHER THAN USE AN EHOMAKI, WHICH IS KIND OF SHORT-SIGHTED...

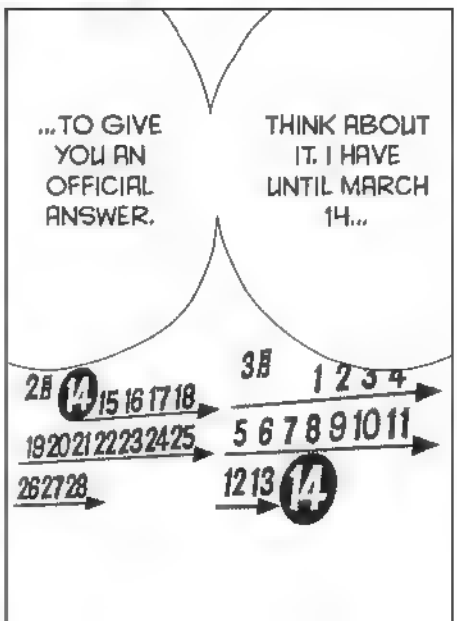


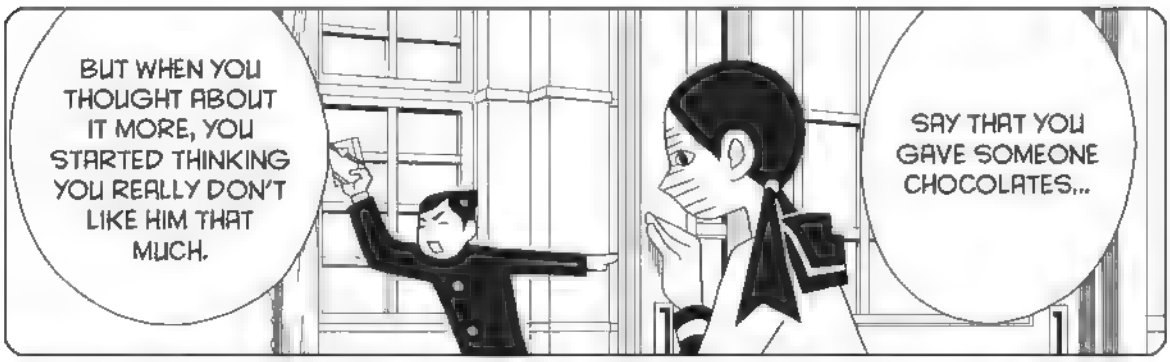
CHAPTER 38

WOW, SENSEI. THAT'S AMAZING!
HMM... HMPH.
I WON'T BE FOOLED!

"COOLING-OFF PERIOD"

A SYSTEM IN WHICH ANYTHING YOU HAVE APPLIED FOR, OR ANY CONTRACTS YOU HAVE SIGNED, CAN BE CANCELED UNCONDITIONALLY WITHIN A FIXED PERIOD OF TIME. FOR EXAMPLE, MERCHANDISE CAN BE RETURNED TO THE STORE, OR INSURANCE THAT YOU'VE SIGNED UP FOR CAN BE CANCELED. DEPENDING ON THE MERCHANDISE AND THE METHOD OF SALE, EACH SPECIFIC CASE HAS ITS OWN RULES AND REGULATIONS.


...TO GIVE YOU AN OFFICIAL ANSWER.
THINK ABOUT IT. I HAVE UNTIL MARCH 14...
2月 14 15 16 17 18
19 20 21 22 23 24 25
26 27 28
3月 1 2 3 4
5 6 7 8 9 10 11
12 13 14

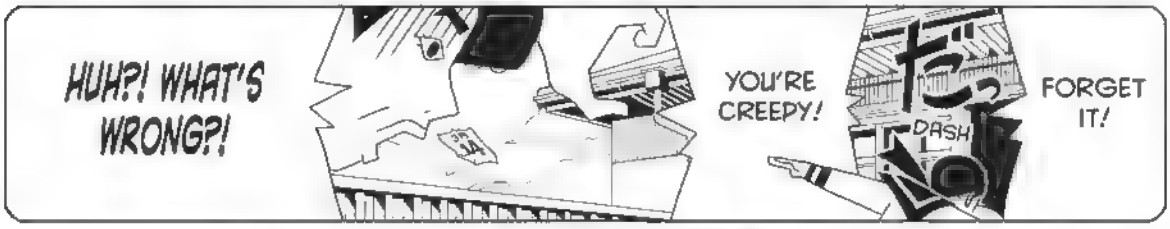

BUT WHEN YOU THOUGHT ABOUT IT MORE, YOU STARTED THINKING YOU REALLY DON'T LIKE HIM THAT MUCH.
SAY THAT YOU GAVE SOMEONE CHOCOLATES...

STILL, YOU GET A RESPONSE.

BY THE TIME A MONTH HAS GONE BY, YOU START NOT CARING, OR NOT EVEN LIKING THAT PERSON AT ALL.

...ARE NOW JUST AN ANNOYANCE.
THE WORDS YOU ONCE WANTED TO HEAR...

HEY, LET'S MAKE IT WORK.


HUH?! WHAT'S WRONG?!
YOU'RE CREEPY!
DASH
FORGET IT!

TO PREVENT SUCH TRAGEDIES...
...WE'VE COME UP WITH A SYSTEM...

AND THUS, BOTH THE ONE DECLARING HER LOVE, AND THE ONE TO WHOM IT IS DECLARED, ARE DISAPPOINTED.
WHYYYYY?!
WHAT A CREEP!

2.14 VD
EITHER YOUR CHOCOLATES OR YOUR DECLARATION OF LOVE...
...CAN BE CANCELED WITHIN SEVEN DAYS!
Within the 7 days
THE "LOVE COOLING-OFF PERIOD."
BEFORE THE COOLING-OFF PERIOD!
NOW LET ME DIE WHILE I'M STILL LIKED!
IT WAS INTRODUCED OFFICIALLY THIS YEAR.
A COOLING-OFF PERIOD FOR VALENTINE'S DAY CHOCOLATES?! I'VE NEVER HEARD OF SUCH A THING!
I'M HERE FROM THE CONFECTIONARY COMPANIES.
HUH? WHO ARE YOU?

...IS NOW OFFICIALLY LOVE CANCELLATION DAY!

February 21 (Love Cancellation Day)

SEVEN DAYS AFTER VALENTINE'S DAY, FEBRUARY 21...

THIS REALLY STINKS OF COMMER-CIALISM!

...YOU GIVE HIM A DELICIOUS GIFT OF GUMMY CANDIES!

TO EASE THE PAIN AND FRUS-TRATION OF THE GUY YOU WANT TO CANCEL OUT ON...

LOVE COOLIDAY, FOR SHORT!

LOVE COOLING OFF

LCO

LCO

LOVE COOLING-OFF DAY!

WE FOLKS FROM THE CONFECTION-ARY INDUSTRY WERE LOOKING TO MAKE A NEW HOLIDAY ANYWAY.

DON'T MAKE A HOLIDAY OUT OF SOMETHING THAT I WAS ONLY TALKING RASHLY ABOUT!

ALL THE HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY WHO WANT TO CANCEL THEIR LOVE WILL RUN AROUND BUYING GUMMY CANDIES!

LOVE COOLIDAY

CLAMOR

CLAMOR

THIS'LL REALLY TAKE OFF!

COOLING OFF

H OF L

PRESIDEN T

O M

N O M. MUSUME

LOVE...

...JUST CANCELS ITSELF OUT...?

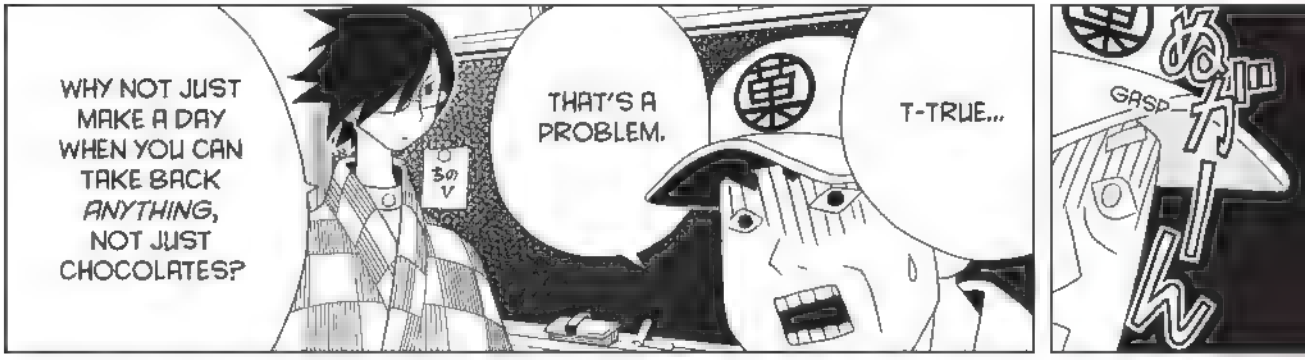
* THE BACKGROUND TEXT AND THE DIALOGUE HAVE NO RELATION WHATSOEVER.

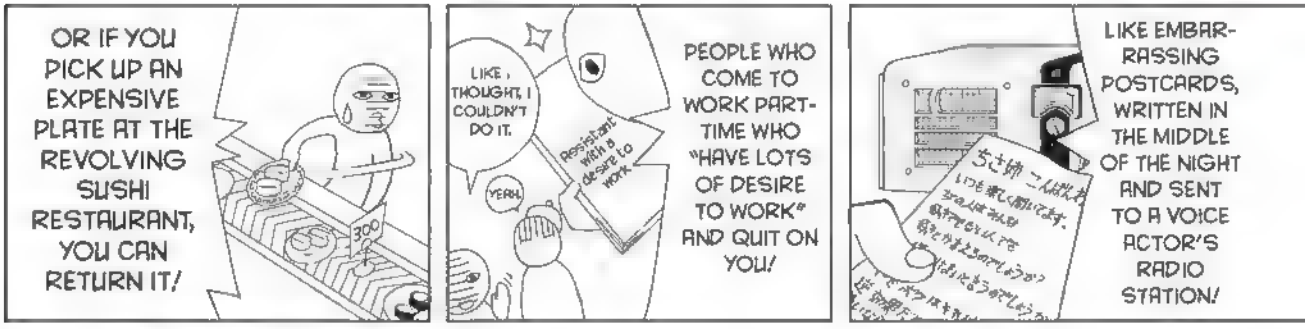
...JUST CANCELS ITSELF OUT...

AFTER ALL, LOVE...

SPIN

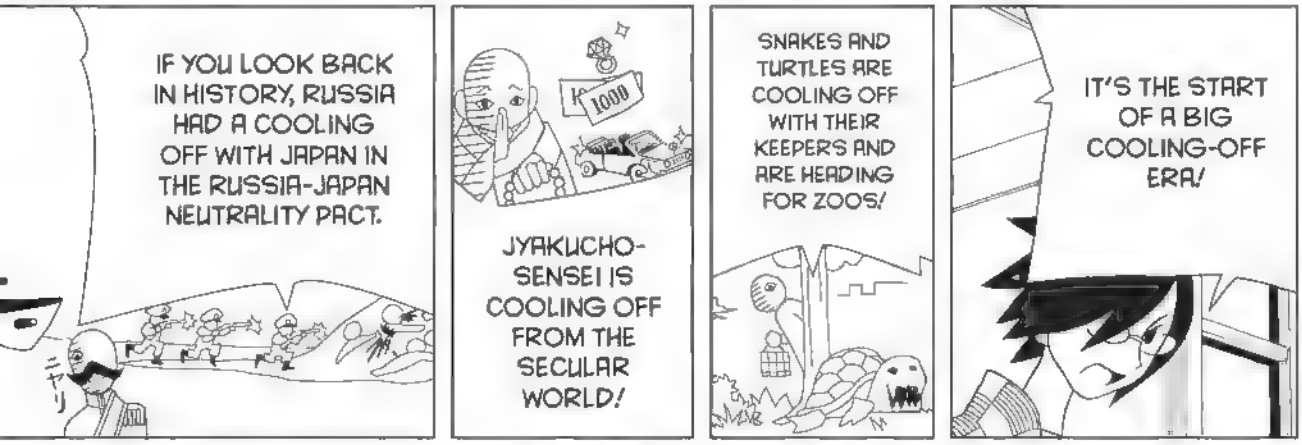
SO, IN THE END, IT WON'T INCREASE CANDY AND CHOCOLATE SALES, WILL IT?
IF EVERYONE CANCELS THEIR LOVE, THEN NO ONE WILL GET TO RETURN THEIR LOVE ON WHITE DAY.
'SCUSE ME, CAN I SAY SOME-THING?
IT'LL BE A HIT WITH THE RESET GENERATION!




OR IF YOU PICK UP AN EXPENSIVE PLATE AT THE REVOLVING SUSHI RESTAURANT, YOU CAN RETURN IT!
LIKE, I THOUGHT, I COULDN'T DO IT.
YEAH.
Assistant with a desire to work
PEOPLE WHO COME TO WORK PART-TIME WHO "HAVE LOTS OF DESIRE TO WORK" AND QUIT ON YOU!
LIKE EMBAR-RASSING POSTCARDS, WRITTEN IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT AND SENT TO A VOICE ACTOR'S RADIO STATION!

- REVIVAL OF THE BEEF BOWL
- THESIS ON EMBRYONIC STEM CELLS
- OPPOSITION TO THE PRIVATIZATION OF JAPAN POST
- "RELAXED EDUCATION" SYSTEM
- HANSHIN GETTING LISTED ON THE STOCK EXCHANGE
- RETIREMENT OF MASAHIRO KAWAI
- RETIREMENT OF HAYAO MIYAZAKI
- SELLING 610,000 SHARES FOR 1 YEN EACH
- BOBBY OLOGUN (B. 1973)
- THE NAMING OF "CENTRAIR"
- V-SHAPED OPENING OF THE LEGS IN THE BATHTUB
- ACTORS THAT RESPECT YAGIRA-KUN
- PERMISSION TO ENTER KEIDANREN
- ALLIANCES BETWEEN TV STATIONS AND IT COMPANIES
- "HE'S MY BROTHER!" "HE'S MY SON!"
- A NEW ADVERTISEMENT WITH A FORMER IDOL
- TALK ABOUT TURNING THINGS INTO AN ANIME
- TALK ABOUT TURNING THINGS INTO MERCHANDISE
- TALK ABOUT LIMITED EDITION MERCHANDISE
- TALK ABOUT TURNING THINGS INTO DRAMA CDS

• MEMBERS COOLING OFF WITH YADA-CHAN'S FAN CLUB
• WASEDA COOLING OFF WITH THAT ACTRESS
• THE LDP COOLING OFF WITH THE FORMER PRIME MINISTER
• THE YOMIURI GIANTS COOLING OFF WITH A MAJOR LEAGUER
• COOLING OFF THE BROTHERLY RELATIONSHIP WITH THE OLDER BROTHER
THEY'RE HOLDING A COOLING-OFF MEETING!


IF YOU LOOK BACK IN HISTORY, RUSSIA HAD A COOLING OFF WITH JAPAN IN THE RUSSIA-JAPAN NEUTRALITY PACT.
JYAKUCHO-SENSEI IS COOLING OFF FROM THE SECULAR WORLD!
SNAKES AND TURTLES ARE COOLING OFF WITH THEIR KEEPERS AND ARE HEADING FOR ZOOS!
IT'S THE START OF A BIG COOLING-OFF ERA!

...WHY DON'T WE JUST CALL THIS CHAPTER OFF?
LIKE I THOUGHT FROM THE START...
.....

THE BASIC MATERIAL DOESN'T HAVE MUCH ROOM TO DEVELOP, AND IT'S STARTING TO SEEM HARSH AND BITTER.
LIKE I SAID, THIS CHAPTER.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "THIS CHAPTER"?
HUH?

I'M STARTING ALL OVER.
I'M COOLING OFF!
IF IT WAS LESS THAN SEVEN PAGES FROM THE START, WE COULD SAY THAT NONE OF THIS EVER HAPPENED.

Sayonara, Zetsubou-sensei

by Koji Kumeta

IT'S THE BIG DAY—FEBRUARY 14!

CHAPTER 38: CHOCOLATES ARE GIVEN OUT GENEROUSLY

TODAY IS VALENTINE'S DAY, ISN'T IT?

AHEM...

ガラ

SHIF

I'M JUST SAYING IT'S VALENTINE'S DAY, ISN'T IT?

ER, WELL...

SO?

DID YOU THINK YOU'D GET AWAY WITH THAT?

DON'T JUST DO A COOLING OFF WITHOUT SERIOUSLY THINKING ABOUT IT, OKAY?

THAT'S NOT TRUE! IT SHOULD BE ABLE TO BE DONE!

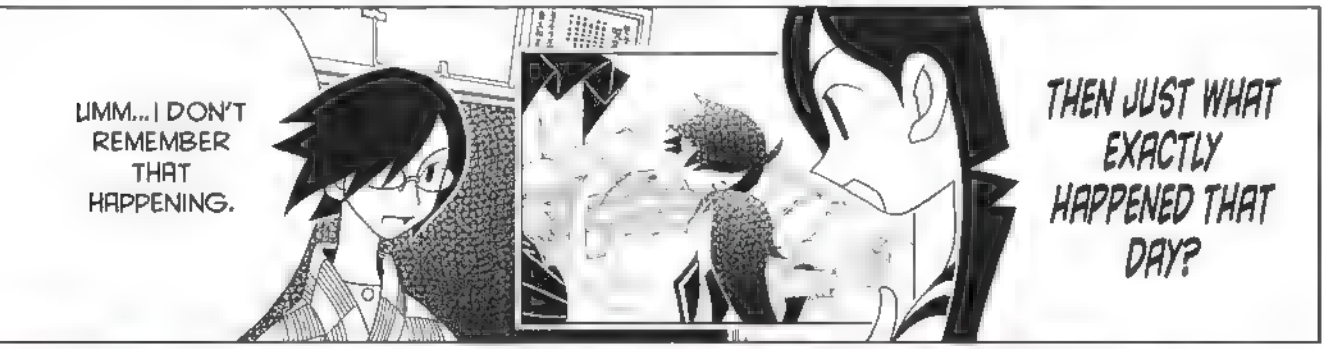
- MOTORCYCLE GANGS
- MATSUNAKA (SEVEN-YEAR CONTRACT)
- *PARMAN* [MANGA]
- BUYING BRAND NAMES
- DRUGS THAT MAKE YOU FEEL GOOD
- APPLYING FOR SELF-IMPROVEMENT SEMINARS
- CONTRACT WITH "THAT" NEWSPAPER
- ODA
- JAPAN-AMERICAN SECURITY ARRANGEMENT
- KAPPA EB.SEN
- POLYGAMY

THE WORLD IS FULL OF THINGS THAT CAN'T BE STOPPED SO EASILY!

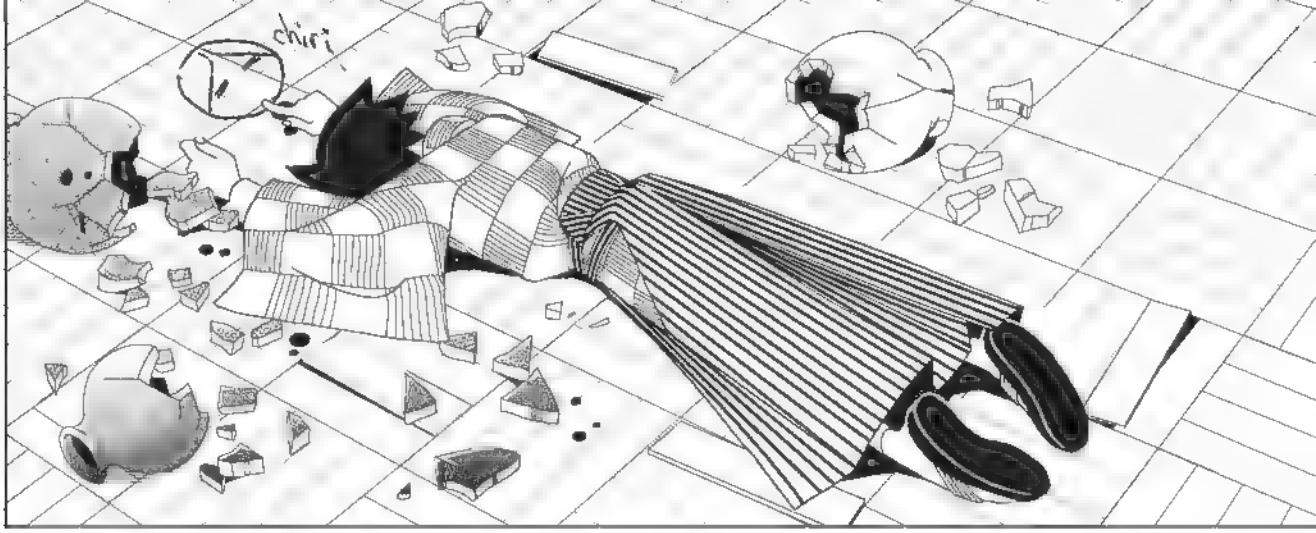
100 hairs
1,000 hairs
10,000 hairs
UP TO WHAT POINT COULD I GET HAIR TRANS-PLANTS?
DO ALL THINGS HAVE A COOLING-OFF PERIOD?
BUT AT WHAT POINT CAN YOU TAKE SOME-THING BACK?

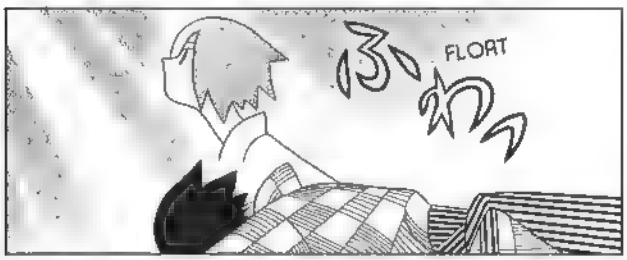
• MARRIAGE
➜ UP TO NARITA AIRPORT
• TASTE-TESTING WIENERS
➜ UP TO THREE OF THEM
• SHINJUKU
➜ UP TO NO. 99, 1-CHOME
• STALKING
➜ UP TO THE POINT OF LOCATING THE PERSON'S ADDRESS
• GIRL/GUY RELATIONSHIPS
➜ UP TO THE VERY END
HERE'S SOME DIFFERENT SCENARIOS AND THE POINT AT WHICH YOU CAN TAKE THEM BACK!
I'VE THOUGHT ABOUT EACH SCENARIO SEPARATELY.
W-WELL... MAYBE ONE HUNDRED HAIRS...?

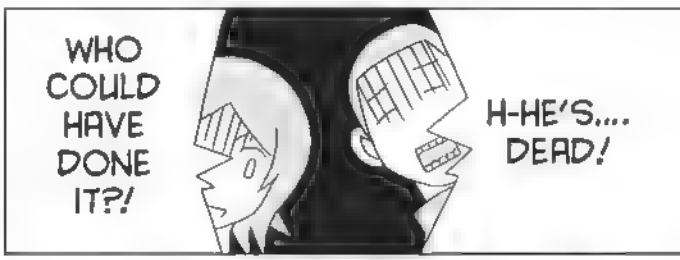
AGAIN, WHAT NONSENSE ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT...?
AND NOW, THIS IS THE PERFECT OPPORTUNITY FOR YOU TO DO THE PROPER THING AND MAKE ME YOUR WIFE.
IT'S TOO LATE FOR YOU TO TAKE BACK OUR RELATIONSHIP


UMM... I DON'T REMEMBER THAT HAPPENING.
THEN JUST WHAT EXACTLY HAPPENED THAT DAY?

LET'S SAY THAT I'VE COOLED OFF.
CAN WE JUST PRETEND THAT THAT NEVER HAPPENED?


chiri


FLOAT

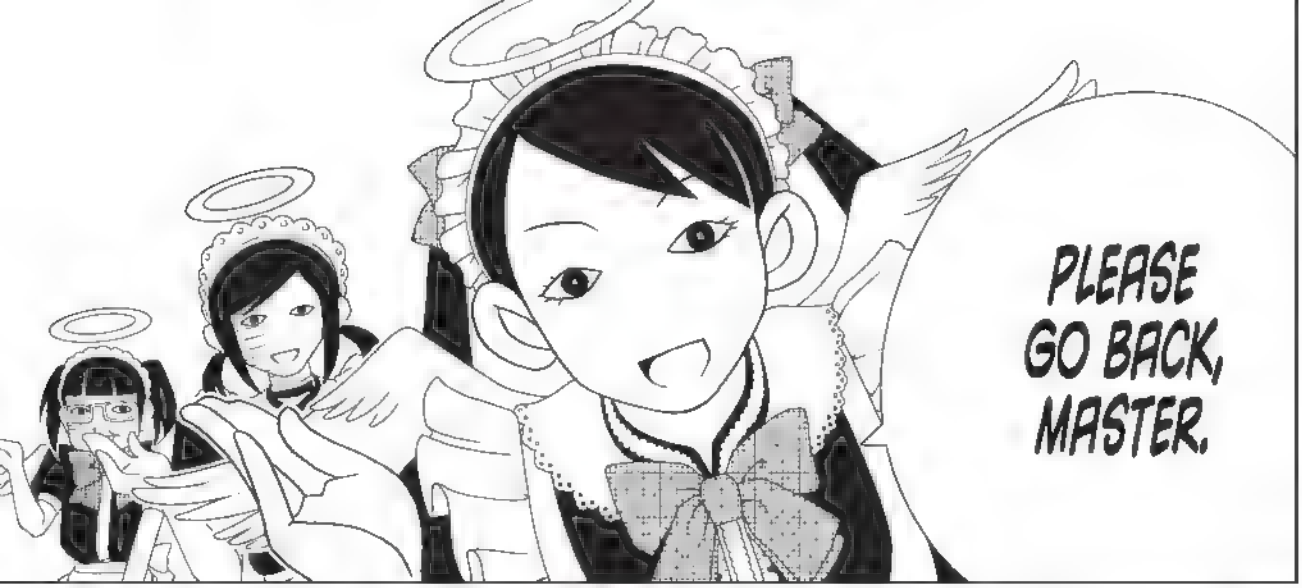

WHO COULD HAVE DONE IT?!
H-HE'S.... DEAD!

...I CAN HEAD TOWARD YOUR DIVINE SOURCE.
AT LAST...

AT LAST, MY HEART'S DESIRE. JUST FOLLOW THE GUIDING LIGHT.

ANGELS ARE COMING TO WELCOME ME.
THIS MUST BE THE FAMOUS PEARLY GATES.

わもら
FLAP
わもら
FLAP
EVEN THE ANGELS ARE PRETTY TRENDY.


PLEASE GO BACK, MASTER.

PLEASE GO BACK, MASTER.
PLEASE GO BACK, MASTER.
DON'T YOU MEAN "WELCOME HOME"?

I'M NOT THE SHOP BOSS. I'M GOD.
WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT?! HEY, SHOP BOSS!

LET'S CALL THIS WHOLE THING OFF.

チチチチ
SHAAAA

GOD REJECTED MY SOUL!

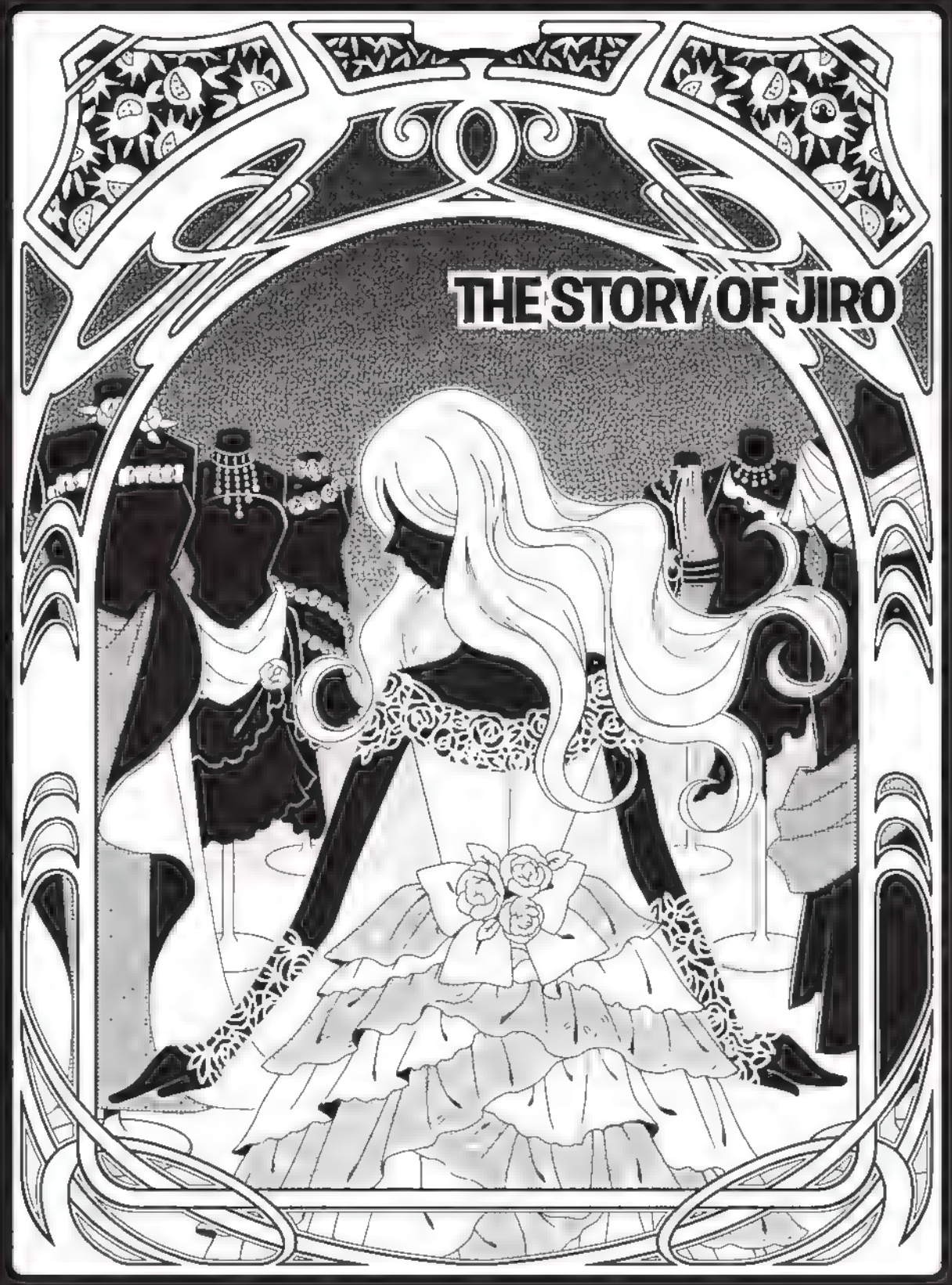
HE SAID IT CAN BE RETURNED WITHIN SEVEN DAYS FOR A FULL REFUND.
WHAT?

HEY! HE'S COME BACK TO LIFE.
EVEN HEAVEN HAS A COOLING-OFF PERIOD...
SOB
SOB

GOSH, WHAT A RELIEF. I WAS WONDERING WHAT I'D HAVE DONE IF HE HAD DIED.
WHAT'S WITH THE SHOVEL?

I DON'T THINK SO.
SO THAT'S WHY THE *SHONANOKA* BUDDHIST MEMORIAL SERVICE IS HELD ON THE SEVENTH DAY OF A PERSON'S DEATH.

Planned site
THIS PLACE WILL NEVER BE FOUND.



CHAPTER 39

THE ANSWER...
AND SO...
空
一生苦しむ
度一切苦厄
苦
苦
苦
苦
.....
SENSEI...
WHAT IS IT?
...IF WHAT YOU ARE SAYING IS CORRECT.
I'M NOT REALLY SURE...

I'D LIKE A SECOND OPINION.
A SECOND OPINION?!
YES.
A "SECOND OPINION"?
SO YOU HAVE THAT LITTLE FAITH IN WHAT I SAY?
IT'S AN ENGLISH TERM. IT MEANS ASKING A NEW DOCTOR FOR A SECOND DIAGNOSIS.

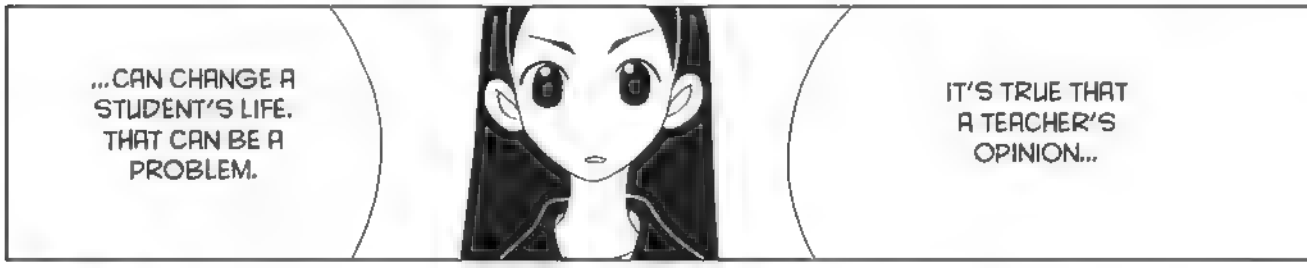
NOZOMU ITOSHIKI'S OLDER BROTHER,
MIKOTO ITOSHIKI
OH, HELLO, ZETSUMEI-SENSEI.
MY NAME IS MIKOTO ITOSHIKI.
WOULD YOU PLEASE STOP CALLING ME BY THAT OTHER NAME?
A SECOND OPINION IS...
YOU HAVE A COLD.
STARE じろっ
...WHEN YOU GO TO A SECOND DOCTOR TO GET A DIFFERENT DIAGNOSIS TO REDUCE THE POSSIBILITY OF INCORRECT TREATMENT.
IT'S
...
WHEN I'M THEIR DOCTOR...
...PEOPLE GET SECOND OPINIONS ALL THE TIME!

WELL, YOUR NAME MAKES YOUR PATIENTS UNEASY... "ZETSUMEI" MEANS "DEATH" AFTER ALL...
...THEY GO GET A SECOND OPINION!
EVEN FOR A TINY SCRATCH...

...ARE THE SAME YOU'VE RECEIVED AS A TEACHER!
THE HUMILIATIONS I'VE RECEIVED AS A DOCTOR...

SHUT UP, NOZOMU! I'M NOT THE ONLY ONE, YOU KNOW!
I ALWAYS THOUGHT YOU DIDN'T HAVE THE RIGHT NAME TO BE A DOCTOR.

SHHHH. THERE'S NO SECOND-IN-COMMAND IN OUR CLASS.
JUST A SECOND. ISN'T HE JUST THE SECOND-IN-COMMAND?
HAVE YOU EVER HEARD OF ANYTHING SO FUNNY?!


...CAN CHANGE A STUDENT'S LIFE. THAT CAN BE A PROBLEM.
IT'S TRUE THAT A TEACHER'S OPINION...

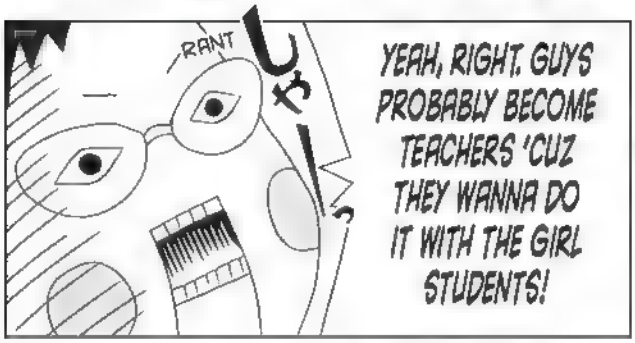
BUT WHO?
FINE, IF THAT'S WHAT MAKES YOU HAPPY! GO AHEAD AND GET ALL THE SECOND OPINIONS OR SPECIAL COMPANIONS THAT YOU LIKE!

UH...
HUH?
I TOOK THE TROUBLE TO BE HERE, SO WHY AREN'T YOU CALLING ON *ME* FOR A SECOND OPINION?
...I THINK WE NEED A SECOND OPINION ABOUT *YOU*.
RATHER THAN ASKING YOU FOR A SECOND OPINION, ZETSUMEI-SENSEI...
BUT WE DO NEED *SOMEONE* TO GIVE US A SECOND OPINION, RIGHT?
わぁぁぁぁ
NOOOOOOO
DON'T SAY YOU NEED A SECOND OPINION ABOUT ME!
YEAH... SENSEI'S NOT REALLY DEPEND-ABLE...
ANYWAY, WE REALLY OUGHT TO HAVE AN ASSISTANT TEACHER.
TO REPRESENT ALL OF YOU, I'LL REQUEST AN APPOINTMENT AS ASSISTANT TEACHER.

IF ALL OF YOU ARE GOING TO GET A SECOND OPINION ON ME...
...I'M GOING TO GET A SECOND OPINION ON YOU!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!
WELL, AFTER ALL, I DON'T KNOW IF WHAT YOU ALL ARE SAYING IS ACCURATE.
I'LL GET A SECOND OPINION FROM...
...ASSISTANT STUDENTS!
ガラッ
SHHF
HI, THERE. I'M HEEERE.
WHAT'S THE MATTER? WHY DO YOU LOOK SO UPTIGHT?
WHO IS THIS PERSON?!
PERHAPS IT'S MY SECOND OPINION ON YOU, KITSU-SAN?

LIKE I THOUGHT, IT'S SANJI X ZOLO, ISN'T IT?
IT LOOKS LIKE THERE ARE OTHER STUDENTS HERE, TOO.
'SCUSE ME, I'M HERE.
THAT'S HORRIBLE!
THIS MUST BE MY SECOND OPINION ON YOU, FUJI-YOSHI-SAN.
SANJI X ZOLO AND ZOLO X SANJI* ARE COMPLETELY DIFFERENT!
THEY'RE NOT TOO DIFFERENT, ARE THEY?
BUT WE HAVE TO HEAR OTHER OPINIONS, YOU SEE.
*FUJIYOSHI-SAN'S ZOLO X SANJI.
HERE WE GO—MORE AND MORE SECOND OPINIONS!
SHHF
YOU MUST BE KOMORI-SAN'S SECOND OPINION.
RUSTLE
MY SECOND OPINION DOESN'T HAVE TO BE BROUGHT IN. IT'S RIGHT HERE.
GLANCE
SWP
TIP
TAP
BAP

THIS IS MUTO-KUN.


RANT
じゃ～
YEAH, RIGHT. GUYS PROBABLY BECOME TEACHERS 'CUZ THEY WANNA DO IT WITH THE GIRL STUDENTS!

ANYONE WHO'S ABLE TO BECOME A TEACHER MUST BE A VERY FINE PERSON WITH LOTS OF DETERMINATION, DON'T YOU THINK?

AREN'T YOU JUST USING THAT PUPPET TO SAY THINGS THAT ARE HARD FOR YOU TO SAY?
IF I GIVE A SERIOUS OPINION, GOING BACK TO THE JAPAN TEACHERS UNION...
THAT'S NOT TRUE. THERE ARE LOTS OF ADMIRABLE TEACHERS.

THAT'S RIGHT! WE'RE SEARCHING!
IT'S NOT JUST FOR TEACHERS AND DOCTORS. PEOPLE ARE SEARCHING FOR SECOND OPINIONS FOR EVERYTHING!
ANYHOW, IN OUR COMPLICATED WORLD OF TODAY, IT'S DANGEROUS TO MAKE A DECISION AFTER CONSULTING JUST ONE OPINION.

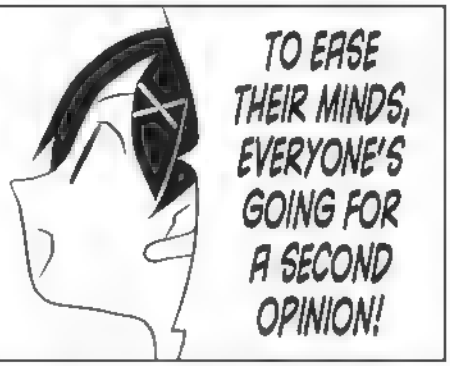
...I'LL GET A SECOND OPINION BY ENGAGING SOMEONE FROM THE KITASENJU MARRIED WIVES CLUB.
I'M NOT SURE IF MY WIFE'S NIGHTTIME JOB IS APPROPRIATE SO...

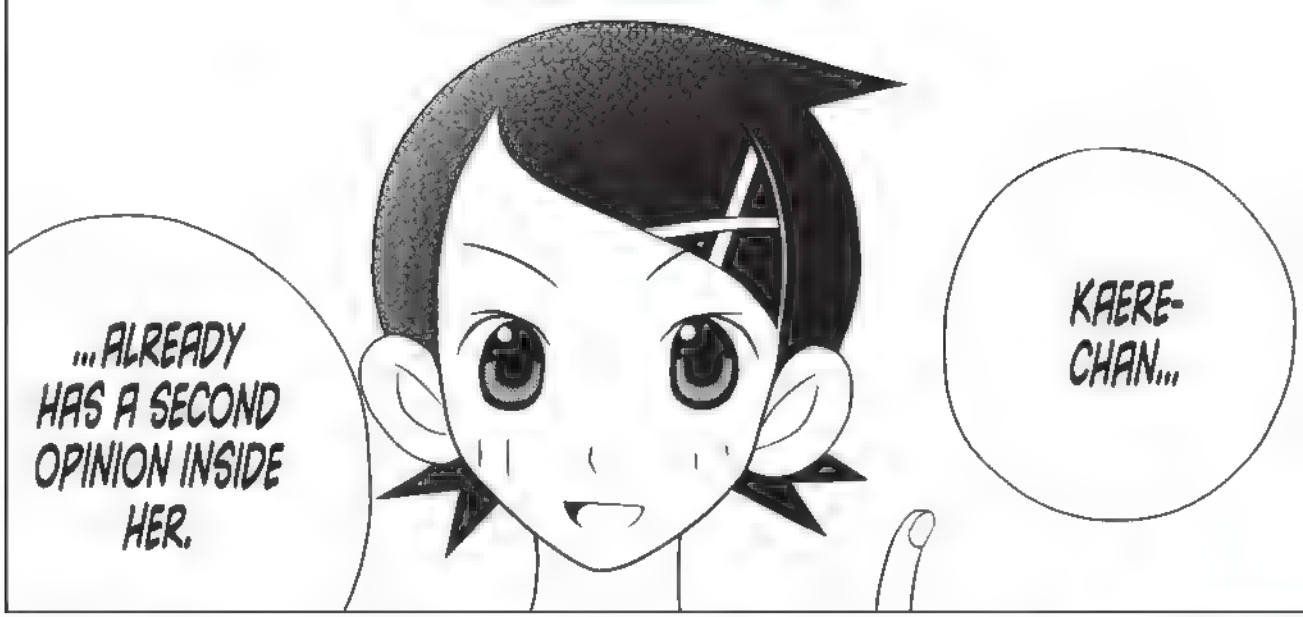
...SO I'LL GET A SECOND OPINION FROM NAKATA-SHI.
I DON'T KNOW IF WHAT ZICO IS SAYING IS CORRECT...

...I'LL LISTEN TO THE PREACHINGS OF THAT *OTHER* RELIGIOUS LEADER, TOO!
SINCE I'M NOT SURE IF THAT ONE RELIGIOUS LEADER IS CORRECT...
...I'LL ALSO LISTEN TO MORITA-SAN'S WEATHER REPORT.
JUST GETTING YOSHIZUMI'S WEATHER REPORT MAKES ME FEEL UNEASY, SO...

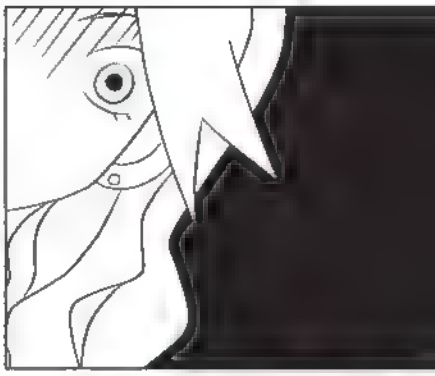
...SO I'LL ASK MIYAUCHI, TOO.
I CAN'T TELL IF WHAT HORIE IS SAYING IS REALLY TRUE...
...I'LL ASK NAKAGAWA, THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, AND FISHERIES.
I CAN'T TELL IF AMERICA'S TELLING THE TRUTH ABOUT BEEF SAFETY, SO...

- SINCE I'M UNEASY WITH JUST MEZAMASHI TV'S FORTUNE-TELLING, I'LL ALSO LISTEN TO YAJIUMA'S FORTUNE-TELLING
- SINCE JUST LISTENING TO PIKO'S FASHION CHECK MAKES ME UNEASY, I'LL ALSO LISTEN TO DON KONISHI
- SINCE ONLY HAVING YON-SAMA'S TYPE OF GLASSES MAKES ME UNEASY, I'LL TRY BUYING ANEHA-TYPE GLASSES
- SINCE I'M UNEASY WONDERING IF TAKEFUJI'S INTEREST RATE IS GOOD, I'LL TRY BORROWING FROM AIFUL
- SINCE I'M NOT SURE IF *SHÔNEN JUMP* MANGA IS BEST, I'LL ALSO READ *SHÔNEN SUNDAY* MANGA
- SINCE I'M NOT SURE THIS SLEEPING PILL WORKS, I'LL TRY TAKING ANOTHER MANUFACTURER'S SLEEPING PILLS ALONG WITH IT




...ALREADY HAS A SECOND OPINION INSIDE HER.
KAERE-CHAN...

SO IT HAS A LIFE OF ITS OWN, EH...
...SHE'S COMING OUUUTTT!
UNNHH... SHE'S COMING...



HERE SHE IS! THE SECOND OPINION.
SO SAITH KAEDE KIMURA.
もじもじ SHY
SHY
WE MUST HAVE "WA"— HARMONY.
ぐるぐる SWITCH

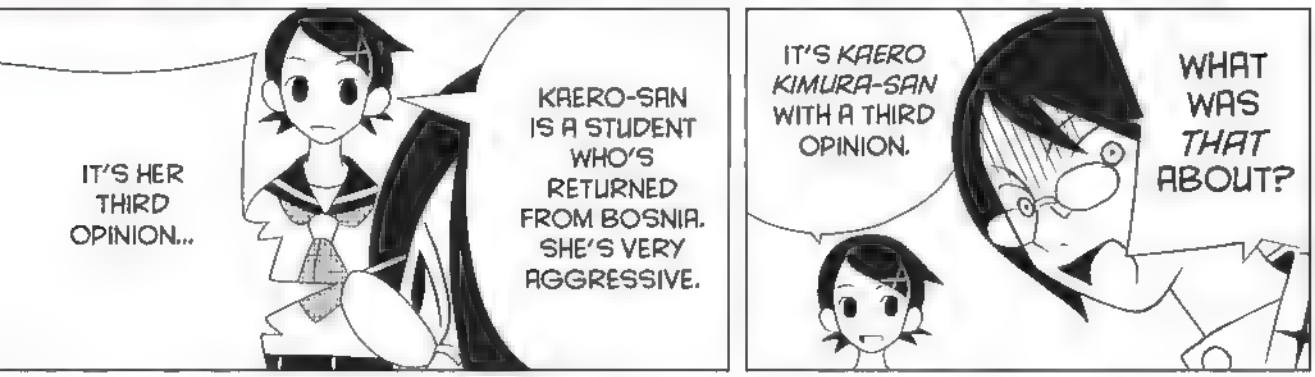
IT'S A SECOND PERSONALITY!
THAT'S NOT A SECOND OPINION

YIPES!
WHICH ONE IS CORRECT?

LET'S COME TO A SATISFYING COMPROMISE.
I'LL SUE YOU!
SNAP
ぱっ
ぱっ
SNAP
じもじも
SHY
SHY

SLUMP
ぶすん
……
DEALING WITH TWO OPINIONS AT ONCE...!
OHHH! I CAN'T GO ON LIKE THIS!

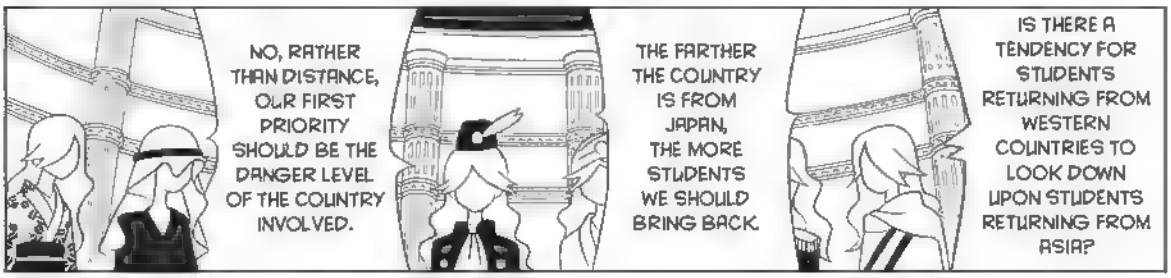
SUING AND COMPROMISING ARE BOTH A HASSLE. I SAY KILL THEM.


IT'S HER THIRD OPINION...
KAERO-SAN IS A STUDENT WHO'S RETURNED FROM BOSNIA. SHE'S VERY AGGRESSIVE.
IT'S KAERO KIMURA-SAN WITH A THIRD OPINION.
WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT?

KAERUNA-SAN IS A STUDENT WHO'S RETURNED FROM FRANCE, AND SHE'S A CHAMPION FOR A GENDER-FREE SOCIETY.
THAT'S KAERUNA KIMURA-SAN... THE FOURTH OPINION.
IT'S SEXIST TO THINK OF COMPROMISING AS MORE RESERVED AND "FEMININE."
ビヤばっ
GRAAAK

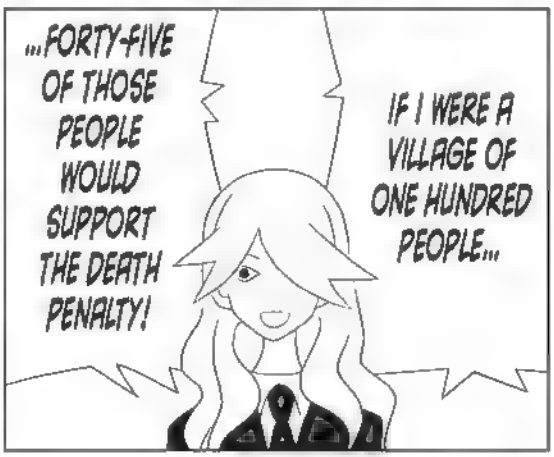
ALL RIGHT, THAT'S ENOUGH!
SWITCH
ぱっ
SWITCH
ぱっ
SWITCH
ぱっ
SEVENTH OPINION...
THIS IS KERUBESHI KIMURA-SAN... THE SIXTH OPINION.
SWITCH
ぱっ
THIS IS KAEREBA KIMURA-SAN... THE FIFTH OPINION.

CONFERENCE FOR STUDENTS RECENTLY RETURNED FROM ABROAD

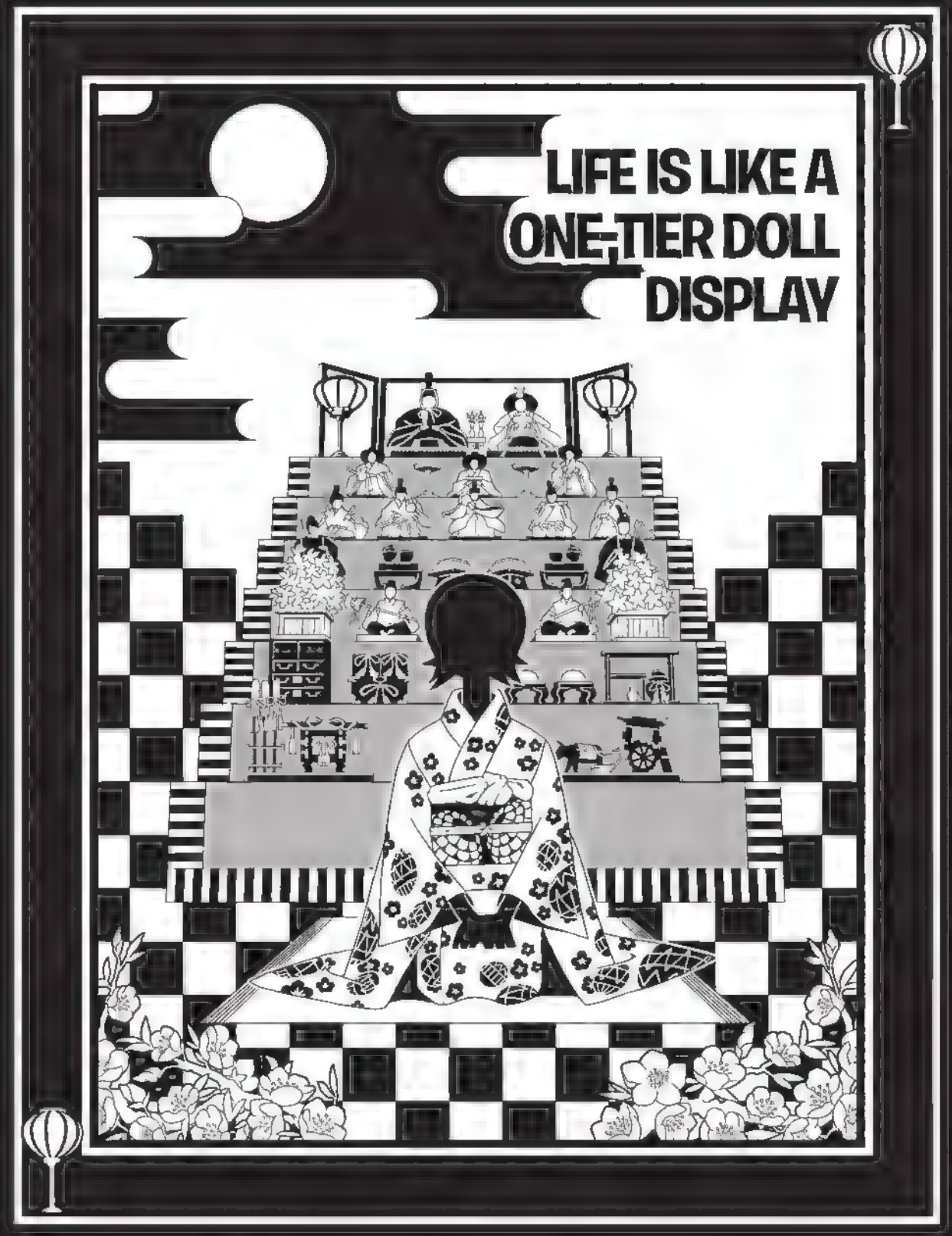

NO, RATHER THAN DISTANCE, OUR FIRST PRIORITY SHOULD BE THE DANGER LEVEL OF THE COUNTRY INVOLVED.
THE FARTHER THE COUNTRY IS FROM JAPAN, THE MORE STUDENTS WE SHOULD BRING BACK.
IS THERE A TENDENCY FOR STUDENTS RETURNING FROM WESTERN COUNTRIES TO LOOK DOWN UPON STUDENTS RETURNING FROM ASIA?

HAVING TOO MANY OPINIONS CAN BE A PROBLEM AS WELL.
...IT LOOKS LIKE ANY CONCLUSIONS WILL HAVE WAIT.
WITH THE INTERMINGLING OF EGOS FROM EACH COUNTRY...

RIGHT.
OUT OF ONE HUNDRED PEOPLE, TWO HAD SHARES IN LIVEDOOR.


...FORTY-FIVE OF THOSE PEOPLE WOULD SUPPORT THE DEATH PENALTY!
IF I WERE A VILLAGE OF ONE HUNDRED PEOPLE...

THAT'S A DOPPEL-GANGER.
WAFT
ARE YOU MY SECOND OPINION?
DON'T DIE.



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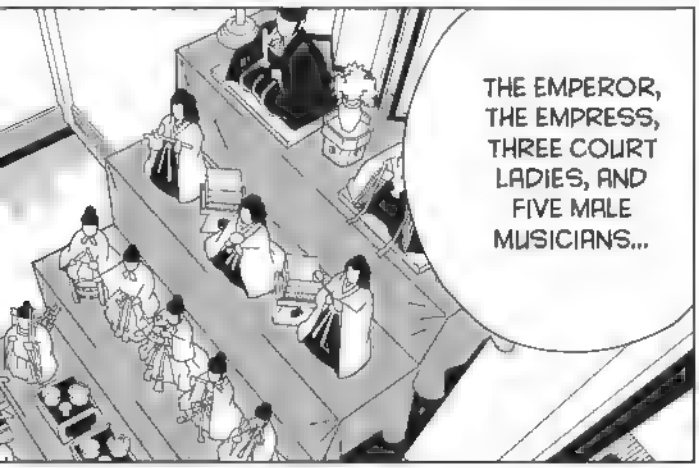
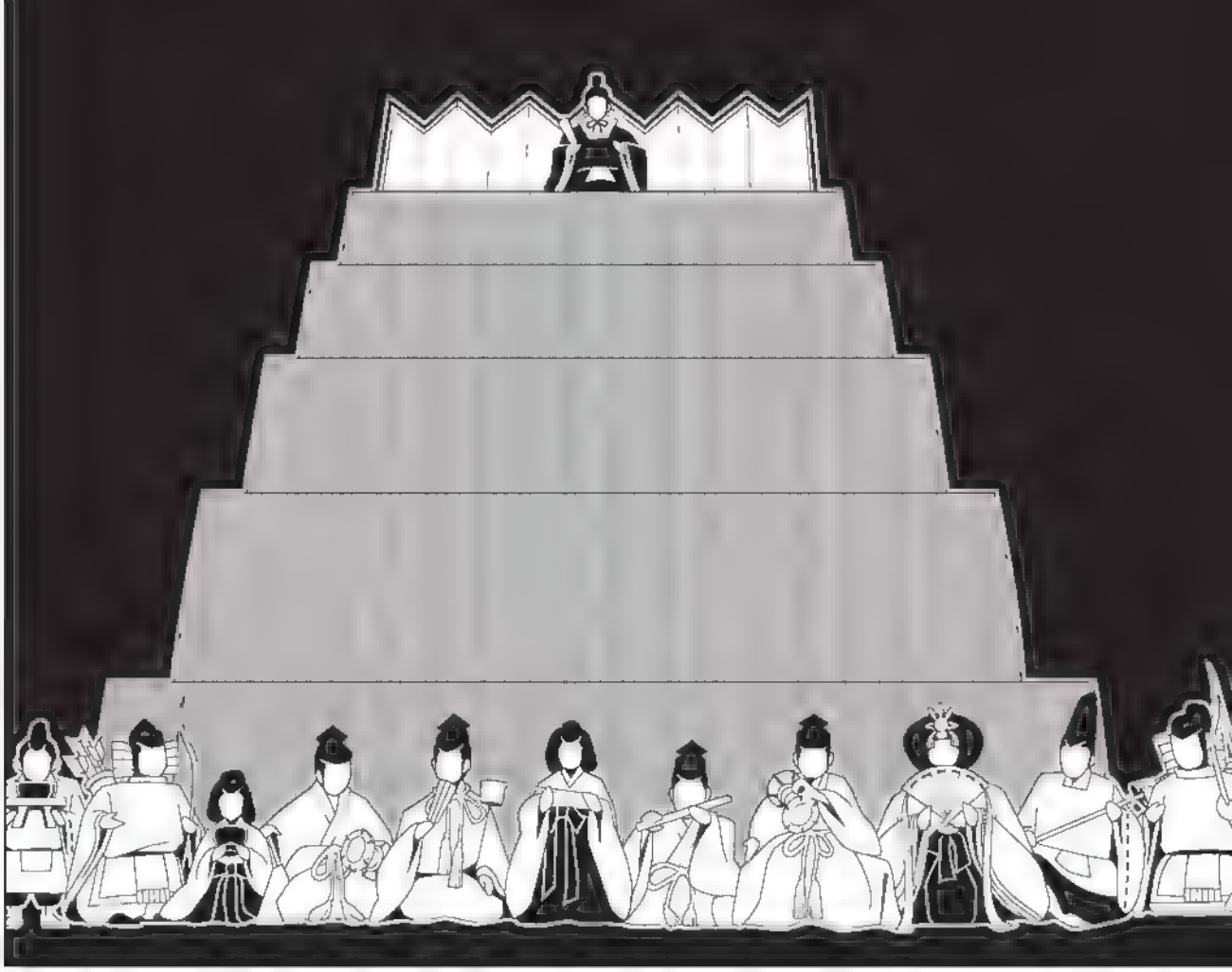

THE EMPEROR, THE EMPRESS, THREE COURT LADIES, AND FIVE MALE MUSICIANS...

PEEK
す
ARE YOU DISPLAYING YOUR TIERED DOLLS?

IT SHOULD BE LIKE THIS!
WH-WHAT?!

...DOESN'T ACCURATELY REPRESENT MODERN-DAY JAPAN!
BUT THAT HIERARCHICAL SOCIETY...



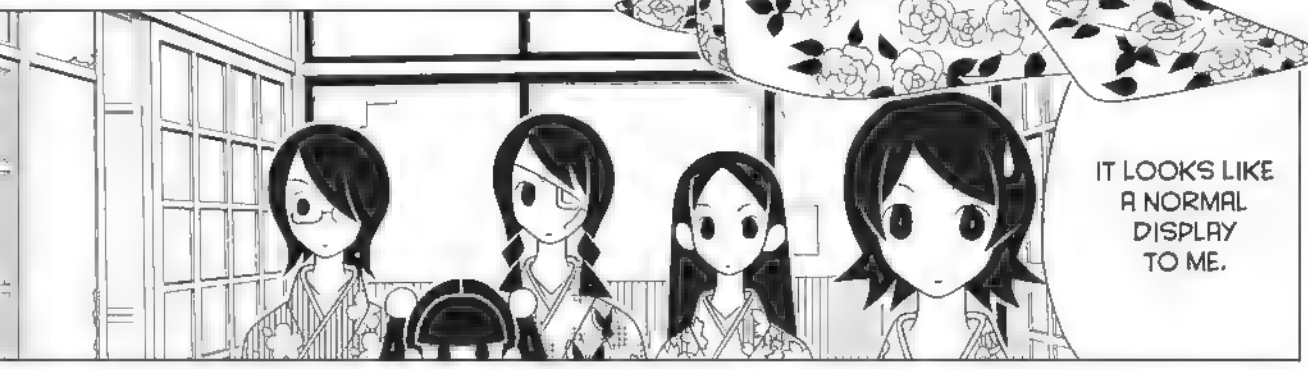
THAT'S A BETTER REPRESENTATION OF JAPANESE SOCIETY TODAY!
A HANDFUL OF PEOPLE IN THE WEALTHY ECHELON, AND 90 PERCENT OF PEOPLE AT THE POVERTY LEVEL!

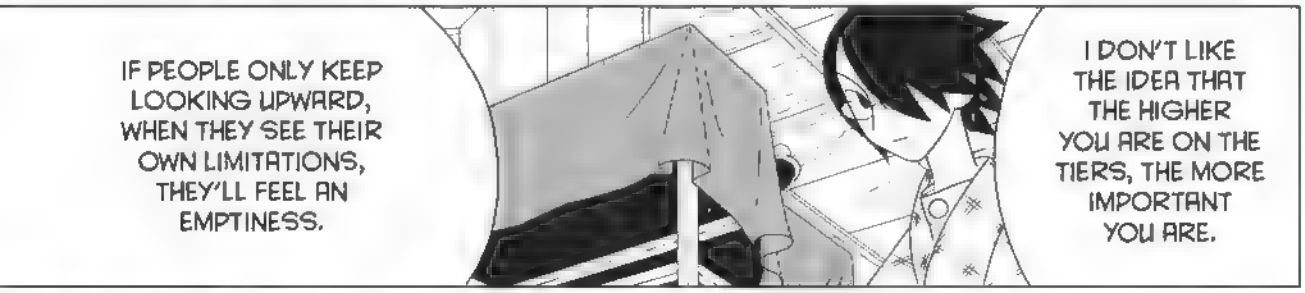
THIS IS THE REALITY OF JAPAN.
I DON'T WANT A DISPLAY LIKE THAT. IT'S HORRIBLE!

IT'S JUST THE EMPEROR AND THE POOR PEOPLE!
THE THREE COURT LADIES AND THE FIVE MUSICIANS AREN'T THERE.

...INVITE YOU TO THE ITOSHIKI HOME FOR *HINAMATSURI*.
OH, FINE. WHY DON'T I...

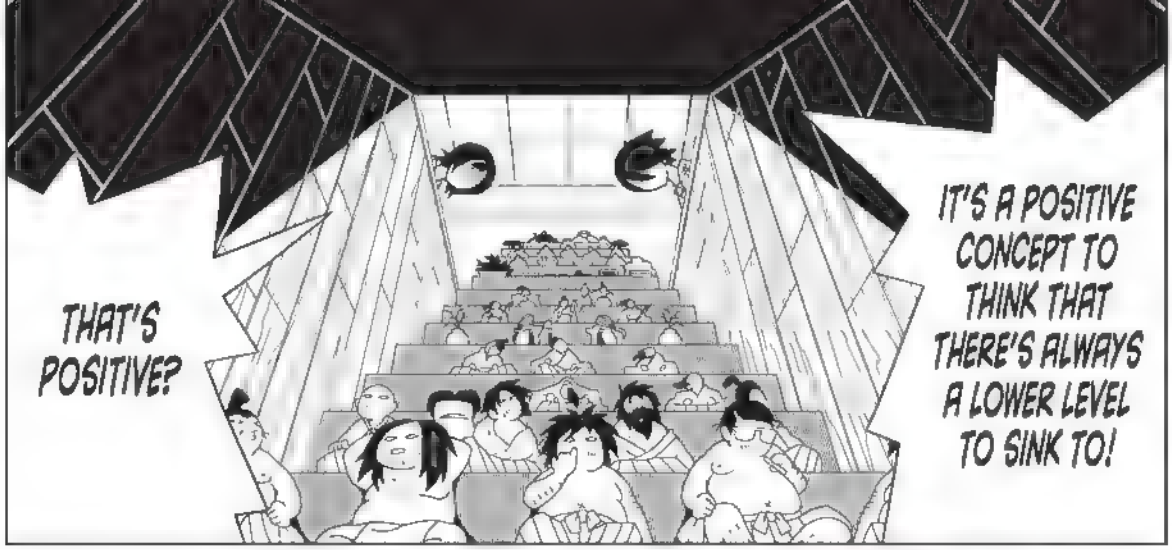
WELCOME TO OUR HOME, EVERYONE.


IT LOOKS LIKE A NORMAL DISPLAY TO ME.


IF PEOPLE ONLY KEEP LOOKING UPWARD, WHEN THEY SEE THEIR OWN LIMITATIONS, THEY'LL FEEL AN EMPTINESS.
I DON'T LIKE THE IDEA THAT THE HIGHER YOU ARE ON THE TIERS, THE MORE IMPORTANT YOU ARE.

LIFT
かぱっ
THE WORLD ISN'T JUST COMPOSED OF LEVELS THAT STRETCH UPWARD!

THIS IS THE ITOSHIKI FAMILY HOME'S UNDER-GROUND TIERED DOLL DISPLAY.

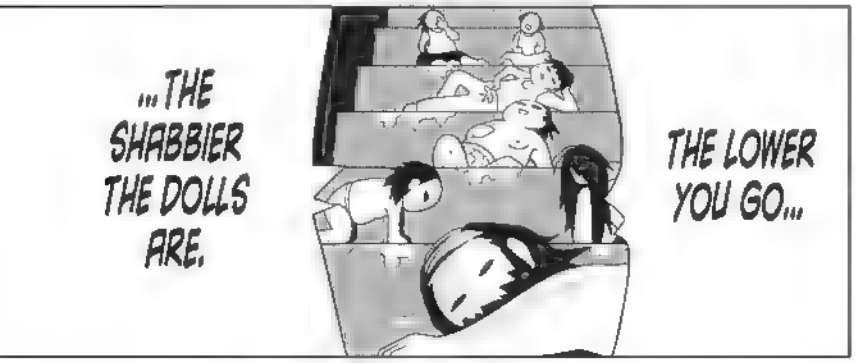

THAT'S POSITIVE?
IT'S A POSITIVE CONCEPT TO THINK THAT THERE'S ALWAYS A LOWER LEVEL TO SINK TO!

EVEN IF YOU'RE AT THE VERY LOWEST LEVEL, IF YOU SEARCH, THERE ARE EVEN LOWER LEVELS!

THAT'S WHAT THE CREATOR OF THIS DOLL DISPLAY WANTED TO EXPRESS.
RATHER THAN LOOK UPWARD, LOOK DOWN-WARD...

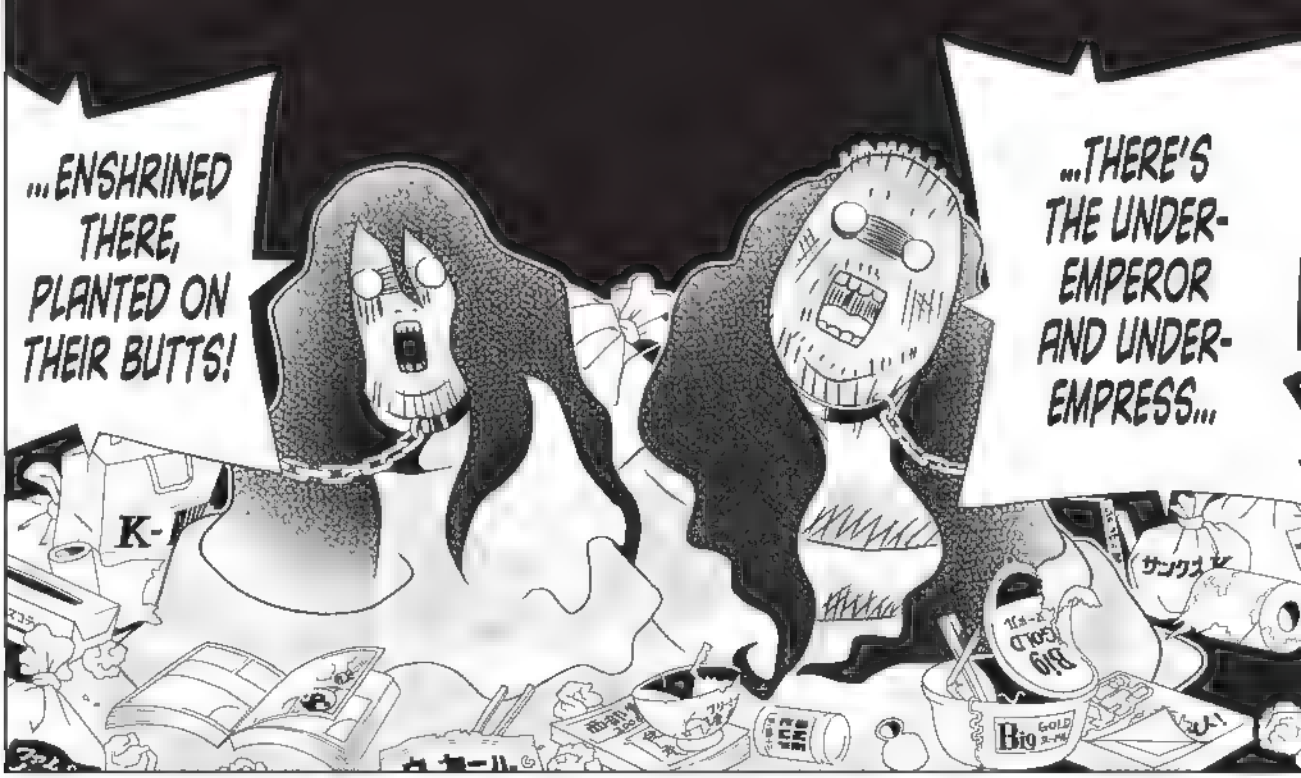
BUT OF COURSE. THEY'RE ALL ON DISPLAY.
ARE THERE DOLLS UNDER THESE ONES, TOO?

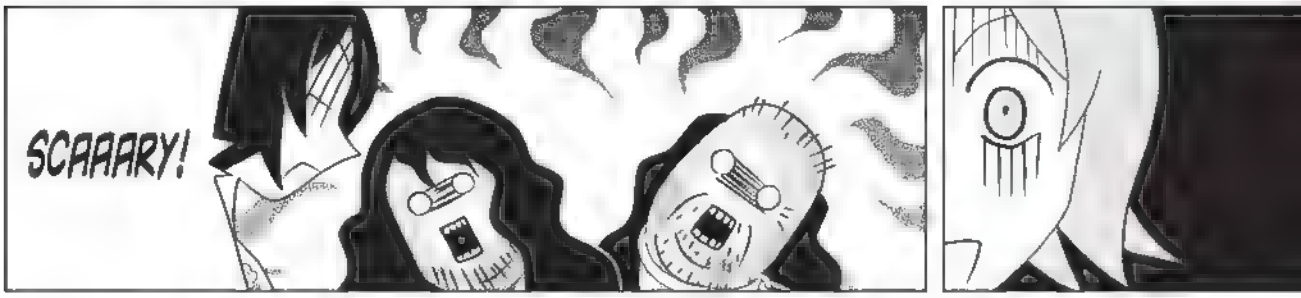
WHO ARE YOU CALLING COMMONERS?!
THAT SHOULD BE GOOD NEWS FOR THE COMMONERS.


...THE SHABBIER THE DOLLS ARE.
THE LOWER YOU GO...

...AT THE VERY BOTTOM TIER...
AND JUST LIKE YOU HAVE THE EMPEROR AND THE EMPRESS ABOVE...

COME, TAKE A LOOK.

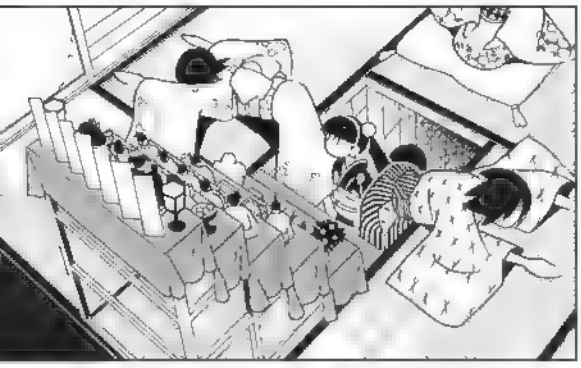

...ENSHRINED THERE, PLANTED ON THEIR BUTTS!
...THERE'S THE UNDER-EMPEROR AND UNDER-EMPRESS...


SCAAARY!

IT'S AN ANIMATRONIC FIGURE MADE WITH A HIGH DEGREE OF TECHNICAL SKILL.
IT MOVED!
EEK!
SQUIRM
SQUIRM
SQUIRM

THE UNDER-EMPEROR IS LOOKING FOR A HUMAN WHO'S INFERIOR TO HIM.
STAND BACK!
HISSS

IF SOMEONE DISCOVERS A POSITION THAT'S INFERIOR TO THE UNDER-EMPEROR'S...
...THAT PERSON IS DESTINED TO BECOME THE NEXT UNDER-EMPEROR!



HEY, YOU MAY SAY THAT, BUT YOU'RE THE FIRST TO RUN!
EVERY-BODY RUN FOR YOUR LIVES!

...IT'S MORE IMPORTANT TO BECOME ACQUAINTED WITH THE LOWER LEVELS, BENEATH THE LOWER LEVELS.
NOWADAYS, RATHER THAN TAKING THE EFFORT TO KNOW THAT THERE ARE HIGHER LEVELS UPON HIGHER LEVELS IN THIS WORLD...

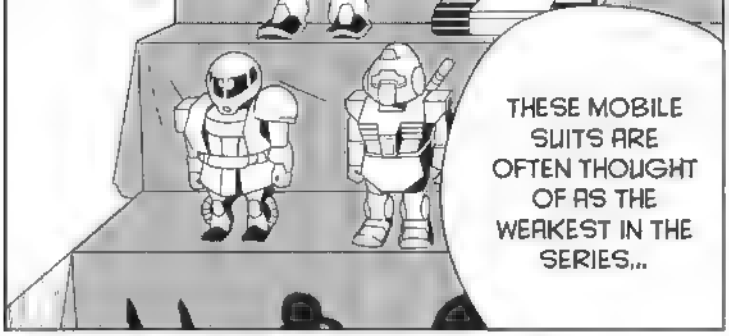
SHF
IT'S UNSAFE, SO LET'S KEEP THIS SHUT.

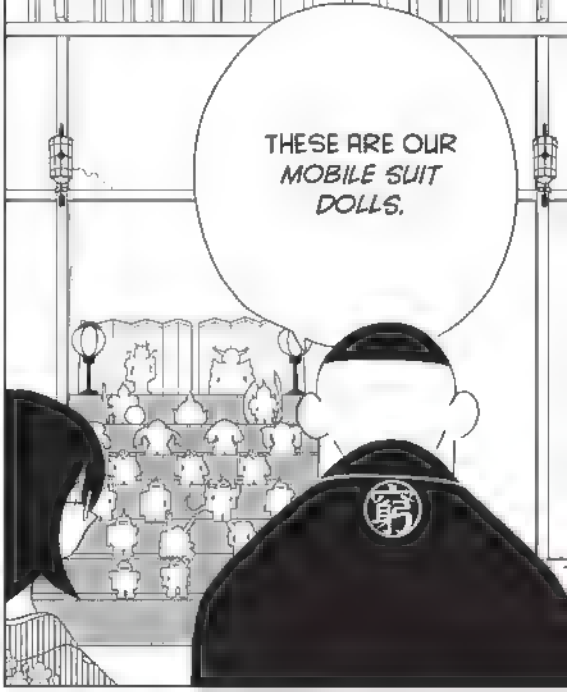
AT OUR STORE WE EXHIBIT AND SELL A VARIETY OF DEGRADED DOLL DISPLAYS.
Kyugetsu Dolls

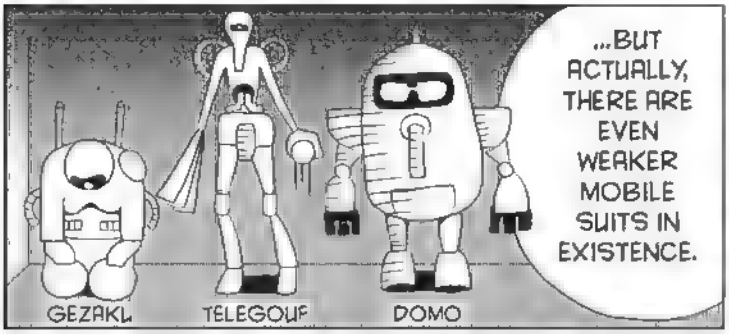
THE INVENTOR OF THIS CONCEPT, WHO'S CREATED A VARIETY OF DEGRADED DOLL DISPLAYS...
...IS THIS MAN, KYUGETSU THE DOLL MAKER.

COME ON INTO OUR SHOP.
WHAT'S THIS?
IT'S A MALE DOLL WITH A HOMELY GIRLFRIEND.
MY OWN WIFE IS RATHER HOMELY...
FLIP
...BUT WHEN I LOOK AT GUYS WITH EVEN HOMELIER GIRLFRIENDS...
...IT FEELS KIND OF COMFORTING.
HEY! ISN'T THIS A BIT MEAN?
ONCE YOU'RE DOWN AT THIS LEVEL, "HIGHER LEVEL" AND "LOWER LEVEL" ARE SOMEWHAT SUBJECTIVE.

ANY BALDING MAN FEELS COMFORTED WHEN THEY SEE ANOTHER GUY WITH JUST ONE LESS STRAND OF HAIR.
THESE ARE OUR BALDING DOLLS.
HEH
HUH? I DON'T GET IT!
IT SEEMS THAT ANY-ONE WHO'S BALDING, NO MATTER HOW BALD THEY ARE, FEELS SUPERIOR WHEN THEY SEE SOMEONE WHO'S CLEARLY WEARING A WIG.
BY THE WAY, THE ONES AT THE LOWER LEVEL ARE THESE TYPES...
WELL...
WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THIS TIER AND THAT TIER?
THESE ARE OUR "NEET" DOLLS.
IT STARTS WITH THE LOWEST TIER.
THE LOWER TIER HAS THEIR MOTHERS GO OUT AND BUY IT FOR THEM.
THE TOP TIER HAS THE ONES WHO GO OUT AND BUY SHÔNEN JUMP ON THEIR OWN.
YOU THINK IT'S IMMENSE?!
THIS DIFFERENCE IS IMMENSE.

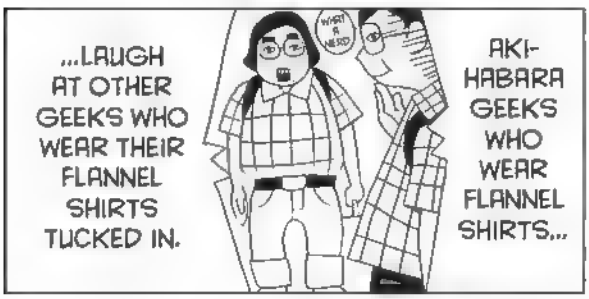

THESE MOBILE SUITS ARE OFTEN THOUGHT OF AS THE WEAKEST IN THE SERIES...

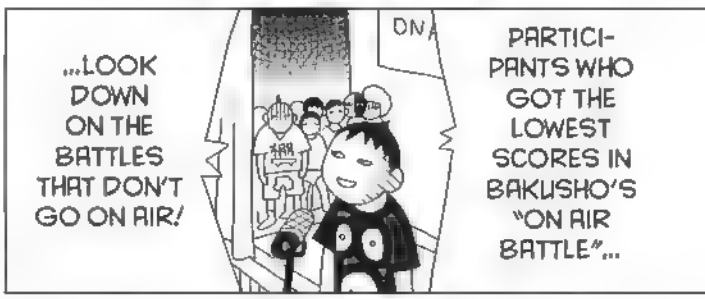

THESE ARE OUR MOBILE SUIT DOLLS.


...BUT ACTUALLY, THERE ARE EVEN WEAKER MOBILE SUITS IN EXISTENCE.
GEZAKL
TELEGOUF
DOMO

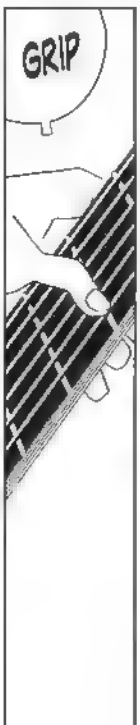
THEY'RE PATHETIC CREATURES.
HUMANS LOOK FOR OTHER HUMANS WHO ARE JUST ONE MILLIMETER LOWER THAN THEMSELVES.

I'VE NEVER EVEN HEARD OF THESE MOBILE SUITS!


...LAUGH AT OTHER GEEKS WHO WEAR THEIR FLANNEL SHIRTS TUCKED IN.
AKI-HABARA GEEKS WHO WEAR FLANNEL SHIRTS...


...LOOK DOWN ON THE BATTLES THAT DON'T GO ON AIR!
PARTICI-PANTS WHO GOT THE LOWEST SCORES IN BAKUSHO'S "ON AIR BATTLE"...

ボ"ロ!〃
STRUMM
AS FOR MYSELF, I LAUGH AT THE PERSON I WAS WHEN I WAS YOUNG.


GRIP

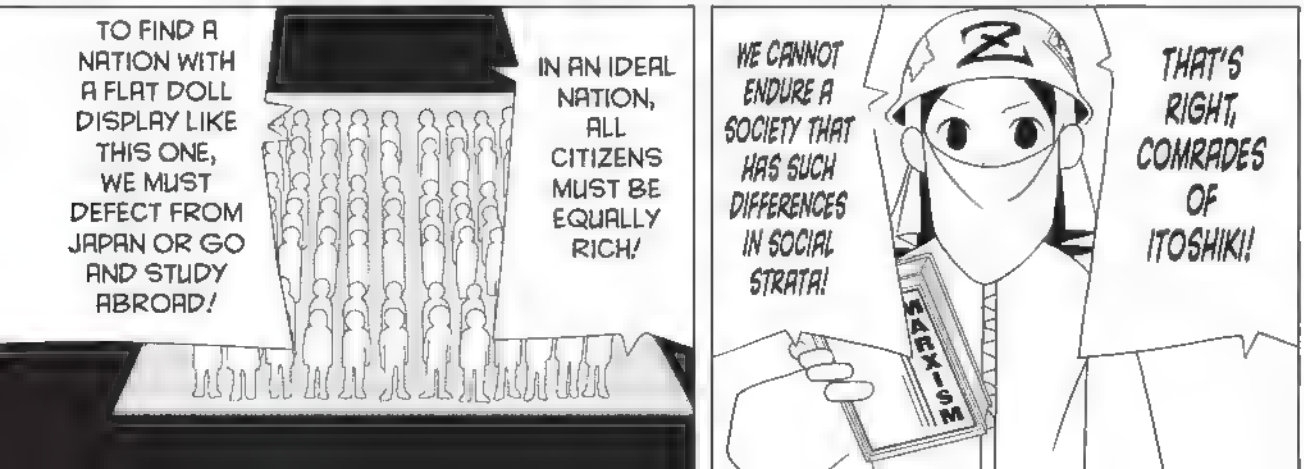
ADULT IDOLS WHO POSE IN SKIMPY CLOTHING...
HOW SHAMELESS.
...LAUGH AT THE ANGELS WHO POSE NUDE.

ボロロローン
STRUMM
SHEESH, WHAT'S WITH THOSE LYRICS?
I'D LAUGH AT MYSELF WHEN I WAS EVEN YOUNGER
WHEN I WAS YOUNG

TWENTY-NINE-YEAR-OLD UNMARRIED OFFICE LADIES LAUGH AT THIRTY-YEAR-OLD UNMARRIED OFFICE LADIES
KURIRIN LAUGHS AT YAMCHA
CROSS-DRESSING GUYS WITH A SEXUAL FETISH
LAUGH AT CROSS-DRESSING GUYS WHO HAVE CLEFT CHINS
RESTAURANTS IN FRONT OF TRAIN STATIONS
LAUGH AT RESTAURANTS IN THE SUBURBS

I'M IN DESPAIR OVER THIS HIERARCHICAL SOCIETY ALWAYS LOOKING DOWN ON SOMEONE EVEN ONE STEP LOWER THAN THEMSELVES!
I'M IN DESPAIR!
.....

SENSEI'S BECOME A FOLK GUERRILLA.
じゃかじゃか
RAAH
革命
COMRADES! THE LIGHT OF A NEW DAY IS APPROACHING!


TO FIND A NATION WITH A FLAT DOLL DISPLAY LIKE THIS ONE, WE MUST DEFECT FROM JAPAN OR GO AND STUDY ABROAD!
IN AN IDEAL NATION, ALL CITIZENS MUST BE EQUALLY RICH!
WE CANNOT ENDURE A SOCIETY THAT HAS SUCH DIFFERENCES IN SOCIAL STRATA!
MARXISM
THAT'S RIGHT, COMRADES OF ITOSHIKI!

...ALL CITIZENS WILL BECOME EQUAL CO-OWNERS OF ALL ASSETS!
RAAAH
TO CREATE AN IDEAL NATION...
RAAAH
SHAAAA
I SEE YOU'VE RETURNED FROM YOUR STUDIES ABROAD.
...ARE ACTUALLY MUCH MORE HIERARCHICAL.
SIGH
WELL, I'VE LEARNED THAT COUNTRIES THAT SAY "EQUALITY, EQUALITY" ...

THE UNDER-EMPEROR'S COME OUT!
I WONDER WHO'S TAKEN HIS PLACE?

CURRENT CHARGES FROM THIS ISSUE

LETTER OF ACCUSATION

PLAINTIFF:
OCCUPATION: STUDENT
NAME: KAERE KIMURA

DEFENDANT:
OCCUPATION: STUDENT
NAME: KAGERO USUI

DATE: NOVEMBER 1
ATTN: CHIEF OF POLICE

- PURPOSE OF ACCUSATION
THE ACTS BY THE DEFENDANT AS STATED BELOW ARE CONSIDERED TO FALL UNDER CRIMINAL LAW, ARTICLE 176 (CRIME OF ATTEMPTED SEXUAL ASSAULT) AND THIS COMPLAINT IS MADE TO PURSUE SEVERE PUNISHMENT TO BE HANDED OUT TO THE DEFENDANT.

- FACTS OF THE ACCUSATION
AT ABOUT 11:00 A.M., WHILE I WAS PASSING BY ON A BICYCLE AND WAS LOOKING THE OTHER WAY, I WAS STRUCK FROM THE FRONT.

I TRIED WITH ALL MY MIGHT TO TRY TO AVOID A COLLISION WITH THE DEFENDANT BY CHANGING THE DIRECTION OF MY BIKE, BUT THE DEFENDANT PURPOSELY HINDERED MY PASSAGE AND ALLOWED MY BIKE TO BE OVERTURNED. FURTHERMORE, THE DEFENDANT, GENTLY AND YEARNINGLY, TOOK OUT AN EGGPLANT, GRASPED BOTH MY ANKLES, AND THEN COMMITTED AN INDECENT ACT BY PUTTING THAT EGGPLANT BETWEEN MY THIGHS AND [redacted] IT INTO ME.

THE AFOREMENTIONED ACT IS DEEMED TO FALL UNDER CRIMINAL LAW, ARTICLE 176 (CRIME OF ATTEMPTED SEXUAL ASSAULT) AND IN ORDER FOR THE DEFENDANT TO BE GIVEN STRICT PUNISHMENT, I HEREBY MAKE MY CHARGES.

DEMONSTRATION OF EVIDENCE
1. WITNESS: NOZOMU ITOSHIKI
2. WITNESS: MARIA TARO SEKIUCHI

PHYSICAL EVIDENCE
THE AFOREMENTIONED EGGPLANT (ONE)

LETTER OF ACCUSATION

PLAINTIFF:
OCCUPATION: STUDENT
NAME: KAERE KIMURA

DEFENDANT:
OCCUPATION: STUDENT
NAME: CHIRI KITSU

DATE: DECEMBER 24
ATTN: CHIEF OF POLICE

- PURPOSE OF ACCUSATION
THE ACTS BY THE DEFENDANT AS STATED BELOW ARE CONSIDERED TO FALL UNDER CRIMINAL LAW, ARTICLE 203 (CRIME OF ATTEMPTED MURDER) AND THIS COMPLAINT IS MADE TO PURSUE SEVERE PUNISHMENT TO BE HANDED OUT TO THE DEFENDANT.

- FACTS OF THE ACCUSATION
AT ABOUT 7:00 P.M., WHEN I WENT OUTSIDE TO VIEW THE CHRISTMAS ILLUMINATIONS, THE DEFENDANT APPROACHED ME, AND STRAIGHT OUT OF HER MOUTH CAME HER CANDID THOUGHT: "I'M JEALOUS OF YOUR MOST-BEAUTIFUL-IN-THE-WORLD FIGURE."

I FELT THAT PHYSICAL DANGER WAS IMMINENT, AND ATTEMPTED TO RUN AWAY FROM THE DEFENDANT. THEN THE DEFENDANT GRABBED MY LEFT ANKLE AND HUNG ME UPSIDE DOWN, EXPOSING MY PANTIES AND THUS COMMITTING AN INDECENT ACT. FURTHERMORE, SHE JUST LEFT ME HANGING THERE.

THE AFOREMENTIONED ACT IS DEEMED TO FALL UNDER CRIMINAL LAW, ARTICLE 203 (CRIME OF ATTEMPTED MURDER) AND IN ORDER FOR THE DEFENDANT TO BE GIVEN STRICT PUNISHMENT, I HEREBY MAKE MY CHARGES.

DEMONSTRATION OF EVIDENCE
1. WITNESS: RIN ITOSHIKI AND SEVERAL OTHER PERSONS
2. WITNESS: DOCTOR FROM THE UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL – MEDICAL CERTIFICATE PREPARED BY THE DOCTOR

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTS
THE AFOREMENTIONED MEDICAL CERTIFICATE - (ONE DOCUMENT)

ZETSUBOU ART GALLERY

ZETSUBOU CLASS NEWS

VOL. 3

The Best Zetsubou Fan Art for These Stories (That We Could Print...)

SENJU NO ISHIYAKI IMO-SAN (SWEET POTATO VENDOR ON THE BATTLEFIELD) (SHIZUOKA PREFECTURE)

IT TAKES GUTS TO TAKE THAT STEP FORWARD!

NICE CAMERA ANGLE (HEH).

CUTE OR SCARY—IT'S HARD TO TELL WITH THIS SKETCH.

DESIGN-WISE, I FEEL IT'S TASTEFUL. IT HAS A SUMMER FEEL TO IT.

HISASHI NO YOKO-SAN (AICHI PREFECTURE)

LOSER DOG ZOMBIE-SAN (OSAKA)

I SUPPOSE THIS TYPE IS WHAT'S TRENDY NOW.

TSUKISHOKU KAMIYA-SAN (MIE PREFECTURE)

YOU'VE CAPTURED MY FEELINGS FOR ME.

KI BO-SAN (FUKUI PREFECTURE)

1993-SAN (SAITAMA PREFECTURE)

THIS ONE LOOKS LIKE ME.

WHO IS THIS? IS IT HIM? IS IT THAT DUDE?

EGUCHI KAZUHITO-SAN (GUNMA PREFECTURE)

CASVAL REM DEIKUN-SAN (DAITO CITY)

THE GLASSES NEVER COME OFF.

KANCHAN-SAN (TOKYO)

SHE'S PROBABLY THINKING ABOUT GETTING BITTEN BY A DOG OR SOMETHING...

IS THIS ABOUT ME? IS IT ABOUT YOU?

TORII KANON-SAN (TOKYO)

THAT WAS TO BE EXPECTED.

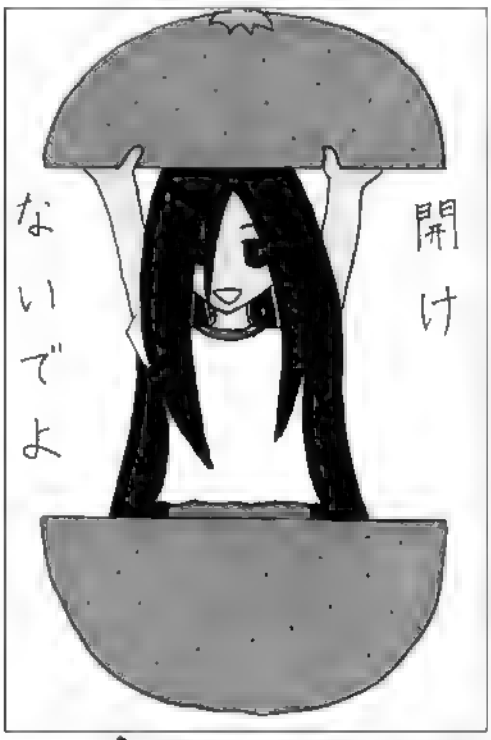
I WAS DECEIVED BY K. HAYASHI.

DWINDLING SOLDIER KUROTOCHAN-SAN (KUMAMOTO PREFECTURE)

GO LIVE IN SABAE.
SELLING THE COUNTRY AND PEACE AT ANY PRICE.
SO IT'S NOT TSUMIKI MIHO, THE ACTRESS?
THERE ISN'T ONLY ONE ACTUALITY
WHERE IS THIS LOW CEILING?
MARIA'S HAIR IS REALLY STIFF, ISN'T IT?
IT'S WELL-DRAWN, BUT IT IRRITATES MY EYES.
FOR SOME REASON, I LIKE THIS AN AWFUL LOT.
HANGING HIMSELF KIND OF ON THE YOUNG SIDE.
MIZUO HIROAKI-SAN (TOKYO)
TSUMIKI MIKI-SAN (FUKUOKA PREFECTURE)
BUNBUKU-SAN (OSAKA)
LEMONTAN-SAN (CHIBA PREFECTURE)
MIRIN-SAN (TOYAMA PREFECTURE)
ATARITSUKI ICE-SAN (AICHI PREFECTURE)
MORINO KINOKO-SAN (TOYAMA PREFECTURE)
SAKKUTTO PARI-SAN (OSAKA)
MINASE-O-SAN (OSAKA)

THE BOOK CAME OUT ABOUT BECOMING GUYS IN SUITS...THAT'S RIGHT...KIND OF GOT CARRIED AWAY.

MERA-CHAN
(AKITA PREFECTURE)



↑ TSUKIMI SO-SAN (EVENING PRIMROSE)
(CHIBA PREFECTURE)

BUT SHE'S CLEARLY OPENED IT HERSELF.

SEEM TO BE INTERTWINED IN A COMPLEX WAY.

MITSUNORI-SAN
(BARAGI PREFECTURE)

DON'T TELL ME IT'S EASY TO DRAW A BODY THAT'S COVERED UP!!

YUKIBANA-SAN (SNOW FLOWER)
(AICHI PREFECTURE)

YOU BETTER NOT SAY "JIGONSU" (BUTTHOLE) TOO MUCH.

SWITCH HITTER-SAN
(AICHI PREFECTURE)

I WOULDN'T OPEN IT FOR SOMETHING LIKE THAT. →

YAMINABE-SAN
(SHIMANE PREFECTURE)

AZUZU-SAN
(GIFU PREFECTURE)

← IT'S HARD TO WRITE COMMENTS ABOUT PEOPLE WHO DO A REALLY GOOD JOB.

CHIKARAHITO-SAN
(CHIBA PREFECTURE)

THIS LOOKS COOLER THAN THE REAL ONE. →

TORO NORISUKE EMON
(TOCHIGI PREFECTURE)

ETE-SAN (TOKYO)

(TOSHIKI MOKO-SAN (AOMORI PREFECTURE)

SOME-HOW, THEY'RE IN SYNC.

ICHIBENKEI-SAN (BRAGGART) (OSAKA)

BLACKMAIL

EVERY-ONE CARRIES A KNIFE.

RIRI-CHAN (TOKYO)

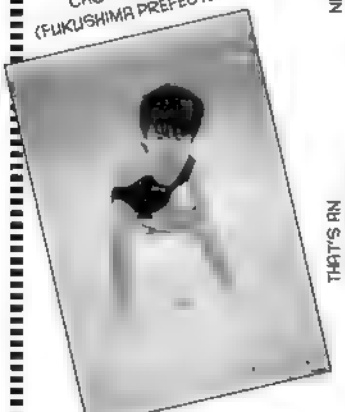
THE COLLAR ISN'T RIGHT AT ALL. IT'S NOT A BAROMETER.

NAKAMURA NIBOSHI-SAN (NAGANO PREFECTURE)

MOEGI AND NAO-SAN (SAITAMA PREFECTURE)

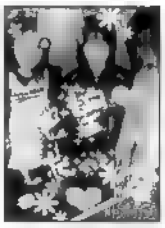
RATHER THAN THAT, COULD YOU HELP ME?

CHOMOLUNGMA-SAN (FUKUSHIMA PREFECTURE)



IS THIS A BOY OR A GIRL?

NAKANO-SAN (HOKKAIDO)



LET'S GET MORE HOPELESS.

ZETSUBOU PHOTO GALLERY

YOU SHOW THIS, BUT WHAT'LL YOU DO IF YOU BREAK UP?

KATOPII-SAN (SAITAMA PREFECTURE)

THAT'S AN EASY MATTER.

THAT'S AN EASY MATTER.

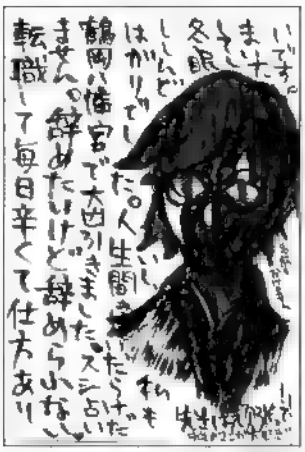
KOBAYASHI MAYA-SAN (ISHIKAWA PREFECTURE)

TOKUME-KIBO-SAN (HOKKAIDO)

THE ABUSE OF BEING BURIED.

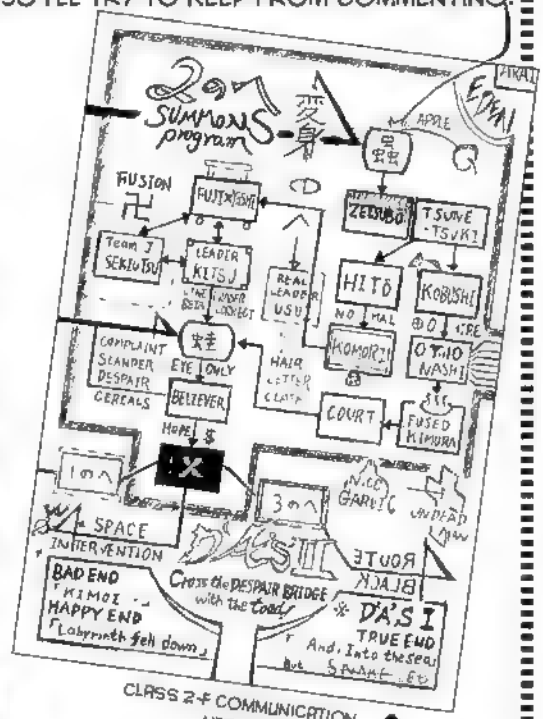
I COULD GET IN REAL HOT WATER HERE, SO I'LL TRY TO KEEP FROM COMMENTING.

ZETSUBOU RADIOWAVE

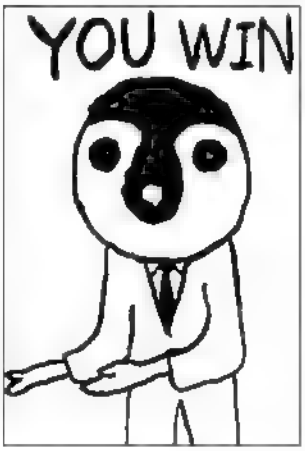


P SAN (P)

NANAHARA AKINARI-SAN (ISHIKAWA PREFECTURE)

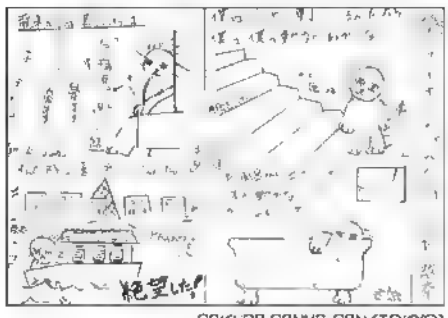


CLASS 2-F COMMUNICATION NETWORK-SAN (P)



1993-SAN (SAITAMA PREFECTURE)

OSAMU-SAN (FUKUSHIMA PREFECTURE)



SAKURA SANNA-SAN (TOKYO)

JUST KEEP SENDING THEM IN!

WE'RE STILL ACCEPTING HOPELESS ILLUSTRATIONS, POSTCARDS, PHOTOS, PRINT CLUB STICKERS, AND SO ON! READERS, KEEP SENDING YOUR HOPELESS THOUGHTS TO THIS CORNER.

SEND TO:

KODANSHA COMICS
ATTN: ZETSUBOU ART
1745 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, NY 10019

YASHIMA TSUBAKI-SAN (EHIME PREFECTURE)

PAPER BLOGS

FOREWORD

RIGHT BEFORE THE WORLD CUP, THE WORLD SURGES INTO A FRENZY OF EXCITEMENT. I LIKE SOCCER TOO, SO I'D LIKE TO GET ALL EXCITED, BUT FOR SOME REASON, WHEN EVERYONE AROUND ME IS EXCITED, I COOL OFF.

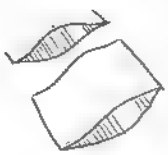
I'VE ALWAYS BEEN THAT WAY. WHENEVER THERE WERE FESTIVALS, I'D ALWAYS BE RIGHT OUTSIDE THE CIRCLE OF EXCITEMENT. I'D WANT TO BE IN THE CIRCLE, BUT I COULDN'T STAND IT, SO I'D STAY OUTSIDE. EVEN WHEN I WENT ON A CAMPING TRIP, I'D BE OUTSIDE THE CIRCLE, AND I'D STARE DISTANTLY AT THE CAMPFIRE FROM AFAR. WHEN I WENT TO KARAOKE, I'D STAY IN THE BATHROOM. I CAN'T GET ANY PLEASURE OUT OF FUNNY MANGA EITHER. WHEN I READ THEM, I'D BE TORMENTED BY AN INFERIORITY COMPLEX.

IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE ENJOYABLE, BUT IT'S NOT. I DON'T THINK I COULD EVER ENJOY ANYTHING. THE SECOND I THINK SOMETHING IS ENJOYABLE, IT CEASES TO BE.

BUT OF COURSE, IF SOMETHING IS UNINTERESTING, IT'S JUST UNINTERESTING.

LIFE IS ABOUT SUFFERING MISFORTUNES. LIFE, ITSELF, IS A PAIN.

CUT OFF



WHEN I THINK ABOUT IT, I'VE LIVED A LIFE IN WHICH I'VE OFTEN BEEN CUT OFF. WHEN I WAS IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AND WAS SUPPOSED TO BECOME PART OF A GROUP, I'D ALWAYS BE THE ONE LEFT OUT. I'M NOT INVITED TO CLASS REUNIONS EITHER.

I WASN'T INVITED TO WEDDINGS OF PEOPLE WHO I'D THOUGHT WERE CLOSE FRIENDS. RECENTLY, PEOPLE WHO USED TO READ ME WHEN I WROTE FOR *SHÔNEN SUNDAY* CUT ME OFF AS WELL. IF THIS CONTINUES, IN MY NEXT LIFE, I'LL BE THE HEMS ON A PAIR OF PANTS THAT GET CUT OFF. IT'S JUST TOO MISERABLE, SO I DECIDED TO THINK POSITIVELY, AND I CAME TO THIS CONCLUSION:

I'M PROBABLY NOT BEING CUT OFF; IT'S JUST THAT I'M NOT BEING NOTICED.

I'M CONFIDENT IN MY THEORY THAT I'M NOT BEING NOTICED. TAXIS DON'T STOP IF I RAISE MY HAND. SOMETIMES, AUTOMATIC DOORS AT CONVENIENCE STORES DON'T OPEN FOR ME. AT REVOLVING SUSHI RESTAURANTS, 80 PERCENT OF MY ORDERS ARE IGNORED. SOMEONE EVEN SAT ON MY LAP BY ACCIDENT ONCE. WHEN I CROSS AT PEDESTRIAN CROSSWALKS, CARS DRIVE RIGHT TOWARD ME AS IF I WASN'T THERE. I WAS WITH AN *ISHIKORO-BOSHI*.

IT'D SURE BE NICE IF TROUSER HEMS WERE USEFUL ONE DAY.

CHRISTMAS

"YOU KNOW, THE SECOND YOU WERE BORN, YOU TRIED TO GET BACK IN."

MY MOTHER TOLD ME THIS HALF JOKINGLY.

I DON'T BELIEVE IT WAS A JOKE.

THERE'S NO WAY THAT I'D REMEMBER IT, BUT IF I WAS EVEN A LITTLE LIKE THE WAY I AM NOW, THE INSTANT I WAS BORN, I'D PROBABLY HAVE GRABBED MY UMBILICAL CORD AND HANGED MYSELF BY MY NECK. I'D PROBABLY HAVE PLANNED TO COMMIT SUICIDE BY DROWNING MYSELF IN MY FIRST BABY BATH.

I'D PROBABLY HAVE PLANNED TO COMMIT SUICIDE BY JUMPING OUT OF MY CRIB. I WANTED TO DIE FROM THE MOMENT I WAS BORN. THE SECRET TO MY SUCCESS IS NOW CLEAR.

ANYHOW, I CAN FORGIVE MY MOM FOR TELLING ME WHAT SHE DID, BUT THERE WAS ONE MORE TRUE STORY SHE TOLD ME THAT WAS A BIT MUCH.

"THE OBSTETRICIAN AND THE NURSE WHO BROUGHT YOU OUT COMMITTED DOUBLE SUICIDE BY DRIVING THEIR CAR INTO THE TSURUMI RIVER AFTER THEIR AFFAIR ENDED."

MOM, IT WASN'T NECESSARY TO TELL ME THAT, DON'T YOU THINK?

DEAD SPACE

THE SETTING: KODANSHA'S SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT ROOM.

"THERE IS UNUSED SPACE IN THE BRAIN OF MANGA ROBOT KMT504. ORIGINALLY, THIS WAS SPACE RESERVED FOR TALENT, BUT MANGA ROBOT KMT504 IS A DEFECTIVE PRODUCT, SO IT SEEMS THAT PART WAS NEVER INSTALLED."

"WHAT'S A MANGA ROBOT WITHOUT TALENT? SEND IT BACK TO THE MANUFACTURER, SHOGAKUKAN!"

"WELL, THE KMT504 IS AN OLD MODEL, WE NO LONGER KNOW THE PEOPLE IN CHARGE, AND IT SEEMS ITS PARTS ARE NO LONGER BEING MANUFACTURED. PLUS, IT SEEMS THAT IT'LL COST MONEY TO RECALL IT."

"IT JUST CAN'T BE HELPED. WHY DON'T WE INSTALL OUR MOST ADVANCED OS—KIBAYASHI ENGINE XR, THE PRIDE OF OUR COMPANY—INTO IT?"

"NO, WE CAN'T. AFTER ALL, IT'S AN OLD MODEL, SO IT SEEMS THAT THE LATEST OS WON'T BE COMPATIBLE. PERHAPS WE COULD INSTALL FURONSON 95, BUT THERE ARE NO GUARANTEES. NONE OF THE PUBLISHING FIRMS ARE WILLING TO HANDLE THIS OLD MODEL ANY LONGER."

"ALL RIGHT, CONTACT THE GARBAGE DEPARTMENT."

"I GUESS I'M FINALLY TURNING INTO SCRAPS."

"RUN, 504, RUN."

"YOU'RE FJTKZ2160."

TO BE CONTINUED...

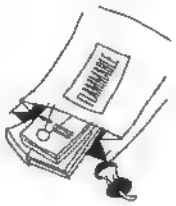
NEW YEAR'S BOKES

OF COURSE I HAD THE NEW YEAR'S *BOKES*, BUT I'M A *BOKE* ALL YEAR 'ROUND, SO IT DOESN'T REALLY NEED TO BE CALLED THE NEW YEAR'S *BOKES* SPECIFICALLY.

THE OTHER DAY, I FOUND MY FAVORITE MECHANICAL PENCIL IN MY FRIDGE. I OFTEN WEAR MY SHIRT INSIDE OUT TO THE CONVENIENCE STORE. WHEN I GO TO TOWN TO DO SOME SHOPPING, I FORGET WHAT I'M SHOPPING FOR. WHEN I GO OUT, I HAVE TIMES WHEN I SUDDENLY DON'T KNOW WHERE I AM. I DON'T KNOW WHERE I STAND WITH *SHŌNEN MAGAZINE*.

WHERE AM I? AND WHERE AM I SUPPOSED TO GO? I'M A LOST CHILD OF MANGA. I'LL WANDER AROUND UNDER THE NAME "MAIGO HIROSHI," AKA "DUKE FLEED."

FUKUBUKURO



IF THERE WERE FUKUBUKURO FOR BOOKS, MY UNSOLD BOOKS WOULD BE IN 'EM.

THERE'S NO GOOD LUCK WITH LEFTOVERS. THERE'S JUST GARBAGE. SORRY THAT I'M GARBAGE.

AS AN AUTHOR, I'M A *GOMIMUSHI*, A GARBAGE BUG. I'M SORRY THAT GARBAGE IS PRODUCING GARBAGE. GARBAGE BUG KUMETA'S GARBAGE MANGA AWARD. LIKE KUMETA, THE GARBAGE BUG HAS GREEN IN ITS LEFTOVERS.

THE WORDS I'VE HEARD THE MOST OFTEN IN MY LIFE ARE, "IT CAME TO A BAD END."

THIS THOUGHT ALWAYS LINGERS.

EVERY WEEK I HARBOR REGRETS.

TAKING ENTRANCE EXAMS

IN THIS LINE OF BUSINESS, EVERY WEEK SEEMS LIKE TAKING ENTRANCE EXAMS. EVERY WEEK, THERE ARE TESTS WITH SURVEYS. YOU MIGHT SAY I'M A STUDENT PREPARING FOR MY ENTRANCE EXAMS.

THE ONES GIVING ME THE GRADES ARE, OF COURSE, YOU, THE HONORABLE READERS. AS LONG AS I MAINTAIN A STANDARD SCORE OF 30, MY SERIES CAN GET PUBLISHED IN *SHŌNEN MAGAZINE*. WITH SUCH A LOW SCORE, I DEVELOPED ENTRANCE EXAM NEUROSIS. ON TOP OF BEING A STUDENT PREPARING FOR EXAMS, I'VE GOT ENTRANCE EXAM NEUROSIS, SO I NEED PEOPLE TO TREAT ME VERY GENTLY. IF MY MANUSCRIPT SEEMS LIKE IT'LL BE LATE, PLEASE HAVE A POLICE CAR ESCORT IT TO THE PRINTER FOR ME. PLEASE TRY NOT TO PAY ATTENTION TO THE PARTS THAT DON'T MAKE ANY SENSE. HOW MANY TESTS DO I HAVE TO TAKE TO PASS?

I'M NOW ON MY FIFTEENTH WAVE OF TESTS TO GET INTO ANIME UNIVERSITY.

EHOMAKI

OTHER PEOPLE MAY HAVE "LUCKY DIRECTIONS," BUT NOT ME. FOR THOSE OF US WITH GLOOMY HEARTS, THERE'S NOT A SINGLE LUCKY DEGREE OUT OF THE 360 DEGREES ON A COMPASS.

IF I GO NORTH, THERE'LL BE AN AVALANCHE.

IF I GO SOUTH, THERE'LL BE A TSUNAMI.

IF I GO EAST, THERE'LL BE A TORNADO.

IF I GO WEST, WHAT I'D THINK IS THE SETTING SUN WOULD BE A NUCLEAR TEST.

THAT'S 360 DEGREES OF CURSED ANGLES. IN TERMS OF HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS, I DON'T HAVE ANY FRIENDS ANYWHERE IN 360 DEGREES EITHER. IN THE MEANTIME, I'VE FACED *CHO*, THE LUCKY DIRECTION, AND PROSTRATED MYSELF.

VALENTINES

FW (21) RUTIN

LEAVES THE OPPONENT'S DF BEHIND WITH A SIDE ATTACK

RECENTLY, THEY SAY THAT CHOCOLATES CONTAIN EFFECTIVE POLYPHENOLS AND ARE GOOD FOR OUR HEALTH. I DON'T KNOW WHETHER IT'S A SPECIAL HEALTH DRINK OR A FUNCTIONAL FOOD, AND FRANKLY, I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT'S ABOUT. WHAT IS THE CATECHIN IN TEA OR BCAA OR RUTIN? SO, I DECIDED TO JUST ARBITRARILY COME UP WITH DEFINITIONS FOR THESE WORDS.

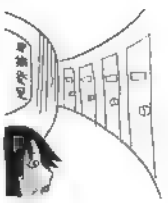
POLYPHENOL →
AN ITALIAN PAINTER FROM THE MIDDLE AGES. HIS MASTERPIECE IS *A MAIDEN PILING BRICKS*.

RUTIN →
A PORTUGUESE SOCCER PLAYER. LEFT WINGER. THIS YEAR, HE'LL SUFFER FROM KNEE INJURIES.

BCAA →
A PROFESSIONAL SCHOOL FOR ANIME IN UTAH STATE, USA. IT'S SHORT FOR BRILLIANT CREATIVE ANIMATION ACADEMY.

CATECHIN →
THE MUSCLE BETWEEN YOUR SHOULDER AND YOUR HANDS.

SECOND OPINION



WITHOUT REALIZING IT, I FOUND MYSELF IN A LONG, LONG CORRIDOR. THERE WERE DOORS IN THE WALLS EVERY THREE METERS, AND IT CONTINUED ON INTO THE DISTANCE.

FIRST, I LOOKED AT THE NAME PLATE ON THE FIRST DOOR. IT SAID "ATTENDING PHYSICIAN."

WHEN I ENTERED, THE PHYSICIAN WAS READING MY MANGA AND SAID, "THIS IS BORING."

I REPLIED, "IS THAT SO? I THINK I'LL GET A SECOND OPINION."

SO SAYING, I LEFT THE ROOM. WHEN I LOOKED AT THE DOOR OF THE NEXT ROOM, IT SAID, "SECOND OPINION."

WHEN I ENTERED, THE "SECOND OPINION" DOCTOR WAS READING MY MANGA AND SAID, "THIS IS BORING."

I WENT THROUGH THE NEXT DOOR AND THE "SIDE OPINION" ALSO TOLD ME, "THIS IS BORING."

IN THE NEXT DOOR AND THE NEXT DOOR THEY SAID, "THIS IS BORING," "THIS IS BORING." EVEN THE FORTY-EIGHTH PERSON DIAGNOSED MY MANGA AS BORING.

NOW I'M IN FRONT OF THE FORTY-NINETH DOOR. HOW MANY DOORS DO I HAVE TO OPEN TO GET A DIFFERENT OPINION?

THE LONG, LONG CORRIDOR THAT CONTINUES FOR ETERNITY.

DEGRADED DOLL DISPLAY

AT A CERTAIN POINT IN THEIR LIFE, PEOPLE REALIZE THAT THEY'RE AT THE MAXIMUM LEVEL AND THEY CAN'T GO ANY HIGHER. YOU NATURALLY REALIZE YOUR LIMITATIONS.

ABOUT SEVEN YEARS AGO, I REALIZED THAT THERE WASN'T ANOTHER LEVEL THAT I COULD GO UP TO. I HADN'T EVEN GONE UP MUCH, BUT I FELT SAD AND PAINED, THINKING I WAS GOING DOWNWARD. ANYONE WOULD THINK THEY'D RATHER STAY IN THE SAME PLACE FOREVER, RATHER THAN GO DOWNWARD. BUT IT DOESN'T WORK THAT WAY. THE DEMONS OF TIME ARE DEMOLISHING THE STEPS ALL AROUND YOU, CLOSING IN ON YOU, SO YOU HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO RETREAT DOWNWARD.

FROM THIS POINT ON, IT'S WIN OR LOSE. SPECIFICALLY, IT'S ABOUT FINDING THE GENTLEST SLOPES TO GO DOWN FROM. FORTUNATELY, I'M NOT THAT HIGH UP, SO GOING DOWN IS EASY. IN THAT WAY, I SLOWLY HEAD DOWNWARD. WHAT'S GOING ON? IT'S EASY TO GO DOWN, BUT THERE'S THE UP STAIRCASE. GOD, I'M STILL CAPABLE. I CRY TEARS OF JOY. STRANGELY, IT'S EASY FOR ME TO CLIMB BACK UP THOSE STEPS. I CAN CLIMB. HEY MAN, I CAN CLIMB.

BUT HAPPINESS IS TRANSITORY. SUDDENLY THERE'S ANOTHER GUY NEXT TO ME RUNNING UPWARD. WHY? THE OLD MAN SITTING ON THE SIDE OF THE STAIRS TOLD ME:

"IT'S A HALLUCINATION, YOU SEE. IT HAPPENS A LOT, YOU KNOW THAT, DON'T YOU? IT'S AN ODD SLOPE WHERE CARS APPEAR TO SLIDE UPWARD. AS A MATTER OF FACT, THEY'RE REALLY GOING DOWN, AND SO ARE THE STAIRS."

I'M GETTING CLOSE TO SEEING GROUND LEVEL. GOOD-BYE.

WHAT'S NEXT FOR THESE TWO TALENTS?

YASUSHI HISAMOTO X OSAMU KOMETA

SPECIAL INTERVIEW!

ONE ON ONE!

THESE TWO MANGA ARTISTS, WHO WORK TOGETHER UNDER THE PEN NAME KOJI KUMETA, DO A CANDID Q&A ABOUT THEIR LATEST SERIES.

OSAMU KOMETA
Born in Niigata Prefecture. In 1981, he debuted with *Great Snow River*. In 1986, *Guide to Tearooms in Outlying Islands*, *Shamisen Songs of Twisted Paper Strings* and *To You, a Mandala* were printed as indefinite serial publications. Following two years of recharging himself, his work *Deep Stagnation* is being serially published.

YASUSHI HISAMOTO
Born in Tokyo. In 1978, he debuted with *Funny Girl*. Serial publications were then begun with the same title. Currently, he's very busy with *Car-Navi (Detective) Navi* and others, as well as three serial publications.

DEEP STAGNATION BY OSAMU KOMETA

INTERVIEWER: I WANT TO THANK THE TWO OF YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME TO COME HERE DESPITE YOUR BUSY SCHEDULES.

HISAMOTO: LONG TIME, NO SEE.

KOMETA: LONG TIME, NO SEE.

INTERVIEWER: YOU'VE RESUMED WRITING AFTER DISAPPEARING FROM THE SCENE FOR TWO YEARS. I BELIEVE THAT IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE YOU'VE BEEN SEEN IN PUBLIC, BUT WHAT WERE YOU DOING DURING THOSE TWO YEARS?

KOMETA: ...

HISAMOTO: ...

INTERVIEWER: WELL THEN, LET ME ASK KOMETA-SENSEI ABOUT *DEEP STAGNATION*, HIS FIRST WORK SINCE HIS COMEBACK. CAN YOU TELL US, SENSEI, WHAT MAKES YOU SO ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THIS WORK?

KOMETA: ...(LONG SILENCE)...I SAW A DEAD PIGEON IN THE MOUNTAINS. AN OLD LOCAL MAN LOOKED AT IT AND SAID, "IT'S BEAUTIFUL." THAT'S WHY I DECIDED TO WRITE THIS STORY.

INTERVIEWER: A PIGEON, YOU SAY?

KOMETA: A PIGEON...I THINK I'VE SAID ENOUGH ABOUT THE STORY.

THERE'S A MODEL FOR THE ROLE OF THE ANTAGONIST

INTERVIEWER: NOW I HAVE SOME QUESTIONS FOR HISAMOTO-SENSEI. YOU WERE AWARDED THE KARUCHERATAN MANGA AWARD FOR *DETECTIVE CAR-NAVI*. WHAT DO YOU THINK MADE THIS MANGA SO POPULAR WITH READERS?

HISAMOTO: PERHAPS IT WAS THE SINGLE-MINDEDNESS OF THE LEAD CHARACTER. I THINK IT WAS POPULAR BECAUSE HE DIDN'T DEPEND ON HIS CAR NAVIGATION SYSTEM AND WORKED HARD TO SOLVE CASES IN A MOST HUMAN WAY. AND ANOTHER POINT WAS PROBABLY HAVING A MODERN-DAY CD NAVIGATION SYSTEM. AND THE SCENE WITH HIS MOTHER WAS VERY TOUCHING, TOO, DON'T YOU THINK?

INTERVIEWER: IN THE LATEST EPISODE WITH THE RIVAL HDD *DETECTIVE CAR-NAVI*, A GORILLA APPEARS. WHAT DID YOU MODEL IT AFTER?

HISAMOTO: IT'S JOE ODAGIRI.

INTERVIEWER: WHAT?! BUT IT'S A GORILLA.

HISAMOTO: RIGHT.

TEAMING UP AS "KOJI KUMETA"

INTERVIEWER: ER, WELL...MOVING ON TO THE NEXT QUESTION. THE TWO OF YOU HAVE TEAMED UP TO WORK ON *SAYONARA, ZETSUBOU-SENSEI*. WHICH ONE OF YOU DOES MOST OF THE WRITING?

HISAMOTO: HE DOES.

KOMETA: HE DOES.

HISAMOTO: DON'T TRY TO PIN THE BLAME ON SOMEONE ELSE!

KOMETA: SAME TO YOU!

(BOTH INTERVIEWEES GRAPPLE WITH EACH OTHER.)

INTERVIEWER: UM...LET'S MOVE ON TO THE NEXT QUESTION...

THE JOYS OF DISCOVERING INTERESTING MANGA

INTERVIEWER: WHAT'S THE MOST INTERESTING MANGA THAT YOU'VE READ RECENTLY?

HISAMOTO: FOR ME, IT'S MASAHIRO FUJITA-SENSEI'S *SEISHUN CHOCO-MINT CLUB*.

INTERVIEWER: ISN'T THAT THE MANGA WITH 251 GIRL CHARACTERS?

FROM *DEEP STAGNATION* BY OSAMU KOMETA

KOMETA: THEY'RE NOT ORDINARY HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS.

HISAMOTO: HE'S GOT TALENT.

KOMETA: YEAH, HE SURE DOES.

INTERVIEWER: KOMETA-SENSEI, DO YOU HAVE ANY FAVORITES?

KOMETA: TADASHI MURAEDA-SENSEI'S *DANCHI KURASHI* "LIFE IN A HOUSING COMPLEX."

HISAMOTO: THERE'S NOBODY WHO CAN DEPICT LIFE IN A HOUSING COMPLEX AS SKILLFULLY AS HIM.

KOMETA: IN CHAPTER 35, "MEASURES FOR WEDNESDAY GARBAGE DAY," THE PROCLAMATION OF AUTONOMY THAT DIDN'T REFLECT BACK UPON THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT LEADER'S SOLITARY LINEAGE, SEEMS TO HAVE MOVED A LOT OF READERS.

WRITING STORIES ALONE, WRITING STORIES TOGETHER

INTERVIEWER: SO WHAT'S IT LIKE WHEN THE TWO OF YOU WRITE STORIES TOGETHER? WHAT KINDS OF THINGS HAPPEN?

KOMETA: ...

HISAMOTO: ...

INTERVIEWER: ...ALL RIGHT, LET'S MOVE ON TO THE NEXT QUESTION...

...BECAUSE IT'S IN YOUR CAR!!
A CAR-NAVI'S CALLED "CAR-NAVI"...
IT'S TIME FOR THE PAPER MAP TO DO IT'S THING!
HEH HEH HEH
SFFT
ZZVUTT
OH NO! SATEL-LITE ERROR!
ZZVUTT
WELL, WHADDYA KNOW! IT'S OUTSIDE THE MAP.
THE SCENE OF THIS CRIME WAS...

FROM *CAR-NAVI DETECTIVE NAVI* BY YASUSHI HISAMOTO

WE TAKE DAYS OFF PROPERLY

INTERVIEWER: THE TWO OF YOU MUST BE VERY BUSY, BUT WHAT DO YOU DO ON YOUR DAYS OFF?

HISAMOTO: I NEVER HAVE A FULL DAY OFF, SO THE MOST I DO IS PROBABLY WATCH A MOVIE.

INTERVIEWER: WHAT MOVIES HAVE YOU SEEN RECENTLY?

HISAMOTO: *THE BONCHI CODE*. THERE'S A HIDDEN CODE IN THE ROUTINES OF THE MANZAI COMEDY DUO "THE BONCHI" AND THE PROCESS OF SOLVING IT IS INTERESTING. BUT I WON'T TELL YOU ABOUT IT, BECAUSE IT'D GIVE AWAY THE STORY...

KOMETA: AH, I HAVEN'T SEEN IT YET.

INTERVIEWER: AND WHAT ABOUT YOU, KOMETA-SENSEI?

KOMETA: LATELY I'VE BEEN GOING TO A LOT OF SEMINARS. LISTEN, YOU! ATTAINING SUPREME PERFECT ENLIGHTENMENT MEANS "THERE'S NO ENLIGHTENMENT BETTER THAN THIS."

INTERVIEWER: GOT IT. LET'S MOVE ON TO THE NEXT QUESTION.

DESK MOTTOS

INTERVIEWER: WE'RE GETTING TO THE END OF THE INTERVIEW, BUT CAN I HAVE THE TWO OF YOU TELL ME WHAT YOU HAVE AS THE MOTTO ON YOUR DESK?

KOMETA: "AN OLD WARHORSE MAY BE STABLED, YET IT STILL LONGS TO GALLOP A THOUSAND *LI*."

HISAMOTO: FOR ME, IT'S "ALL IS VANITY."

INTERVIEWER: THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR BEING HERE TODAY.

HEY, DON'T OPEN IT, OKAY?

ITOSHIKI
Brand
Milk

ZETSUBOU LITERARY COMPILATION

THE RESTAURANT OF MANY CONDOLENCE CALLS

RESTAURANT "FUGU HOUSE"

"PLEASE UNDERSTAND THAT THIS RESTAURANT RECEIVES MANY CONDOLENCE CALLS."

"THE DECEASED CHEF MUST HAVE HAD A LOT OF FRIENDS WHILE HE WAS ALIVE."

"WELL, YOU KNOW, HE PREPARED *FUGU* (BLOWFISH) DISHES WITHOUT A LICENSE, SO IT'S NOT THAT THERE ARE LOTS OF FOLKS COMING TO OFFER CONDOLENCES FOR *HIM*. IT'S MORE LIKE THEY'RE OFFERING CONDOLENCES FOR THE DECEASED CUSTOMERS."

"OH NO.../" SHUDDER, SHUDDER, SHUDDER. THE TWO BEGIN TO SOB.

"PLEASE BURY YOURSELVES IN SAND HERE, AND DETOXIFY YOURSELVES.
THE AMBULANCE WON'T TAKE ANY LONGER THAN FIFTEEN MINUTES."

Translation Notes

Japanese is a tricky language for most Westerners, and translation is often more art than science. In the case of a text-dense manga like *Sayonara, Zetsubou-sensei*, it's a delicate art indeed. Although most of the jokes are universal, Koji Kumeta is famous for filling his manga with references to Japanese politics, entertainment, *otaku* culture, religion, and sports. Unless you're a true Japanophile, it's difficult to understand it all without some serious background knowledge of current events at the time the manga was running. Kumeta also uses references to foreign literature and politics, so even Japanese readers probably don't get all the humor. For your reading pleasure, here are notes on some of the more obscure references and difficult-to-translate jokes in *Sayonara, Zetsubou-sensei*.

General Notes

Sayonara, Zetsubou-sensei (title)

The title *Sayonara, Zetsubou-sensei* literally translates to "Goodbye, Mr. Despair." It's a possible reference to James Hilton's 1934 novel of a beloved teacher, *Goodbye, Mr. Chips* (known in Japan as *Chips-sensei, Sayonara*). The Del Rey edition preserves the original Japanese title, with "The Power of Negative Thinking" as a subtitle to express Itoshiki's philosophy. (The English subtitle is itself a reference to Norman Vincent Peale's 1952 self-help book *The Power of Positive Thinking*.)

Signs

Koji Kumeta's highly detailed and realistic renderings of modern Japanese life present one special challenge to the letterer. Kumeta fills his panels with all the ephemera of everyday life—street signs, product labels, magazine covers, newspaper pages, and so on. It's difficult to replace this text with English lettering without interfering with the integrity of the original illustrations. Out of respect for Kumeta's unique artwork, many signs have retained their original Japanese lettering.

Page Notes

Assorted references, page iv

Higashi-Jûjo ("East Jûjo") is the name of a railway station and the surrounding neighborhood in Tokyo's Kita ward. *Daisakkai* (literally, "great deadly sphere") is an extremely unlucky, "deadly" period of one's life according to the astrological system *rokusei senjutsu* ("six-star astrology"), while *Tenchûsatsu* (literally, "deadly within heaven") is an unlucky sign according to *sanmeigaku*, another form of fortune-telling based on birth date and the *kanji* in one's name.

Assorted references, page 3

Hikikomori is a Japanese term for individuals who have chosen to withdraw from society and not leave their homes. The word comes from the verb *hikikomoru*, which means "stay indoors" or "be confined indoors." It is considered a serious social problem in Japan. "Coupling" is a Japanese term for coming up with imaginary pairings between fictional characters. The equivalent English slang term is "shipping."

The Throwaway Bronze, page 4

Sayonara, Zetsubou-sensei's chapter titles are usually references to Japanese fiction, generally classics from the prewar period, in keeping with Zetsubou-sensei's old-fashioned clothes and tastes. This particular title is a pun on the novel *The Bronze Christ* by Nagayo Yoshiro (1888–1961). In Japanese, "the throwaway bronze" is *Seido no Kirisute* and "the bronze christ" is *Seido no Kirisuto*.

New Year's cards, page 5

In Japan, there is a tradition of sending New Year's postcards, called *nengajo*, to your friends, relatives, and business associates. The average family sends and receives more than a hundred *nengajo*, all of which are delivered promptly on January 1, through an amazing feat of the Japanese post office.

Cut me off, page 6

This chapter is full of puns based on the Japanese verb *kiri*, which meants "to cut, sever, or break off." It's part of the noun *ashikiri* ("cutoff") and is also used in the same sense that "discard" is used in English.

Ruida's Tavern, page 7

Ruida's Tavern (*Ruida no Sakaba*) is a location where unwanted party members are kept in the untranslated 1995 Super Famicom game *Dragon Quest 6*.

Assorted references, page 8

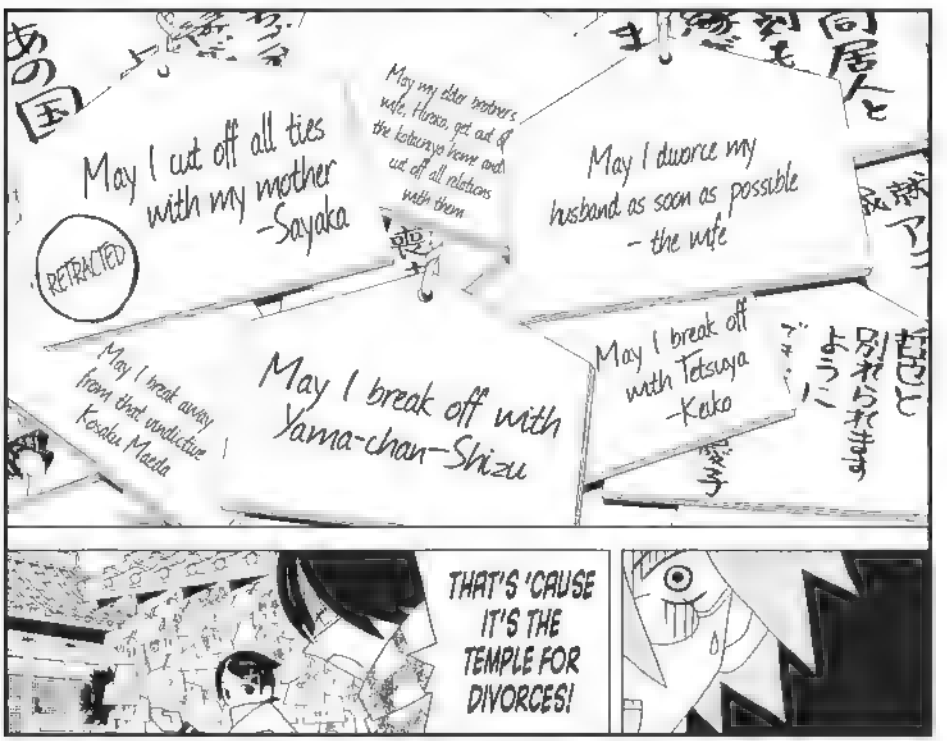
The "*Shônen Magazine* Editorial Cut-Off Meeting" refers to *Weekly Shônen Magazine*, where *Zetsubou-sensei* is printed in Japan. Over the year 2006, the magazine's page count went down, although it's unclear whether the editorial staff was quite so gleeful about it as depicted here. The National Center Test is the annual standardized admissions test used by public and some private universities in Japan.

Free agent, page 9

In the original Japanese, the term "free agent" is abbreviated "F.A."

Assorted references, page 10

JL is short for J-League, the top soccer league in Japan. Junichiro Koizumi (1942–) was the prime minister of Japan from 2001 to 2006, despite some opposition from within his own party, the Liberal Democratic Party. (He's also referenced on pages 60 and 95.) Colonel Muska is a character in Hayao Miyazaki's 1986 animated film, *Laputa: The Castle in the Sky*. The Roppongi Hills complex is a sky-scraper business megacomplex opened in Tokyo in 2003 (see also the reference on page 40).


May I cut off all ties with my mother -Sayaka
RETRACTED
May my elder brother's wife, Haruko, get out of the Kotachiyo home and cut off all relations with them
May I divorce my husband as soon as possible - the wife
May I break off with Yama-chan-Shizu
May I break away from that vindictive Kosaku Maeda
May I break off with Tetsuya -Keiko
THAT'S 'CAUSE IT'S THE TEMPLE FOR DIVORCES!

Temple for Divorces, page 14

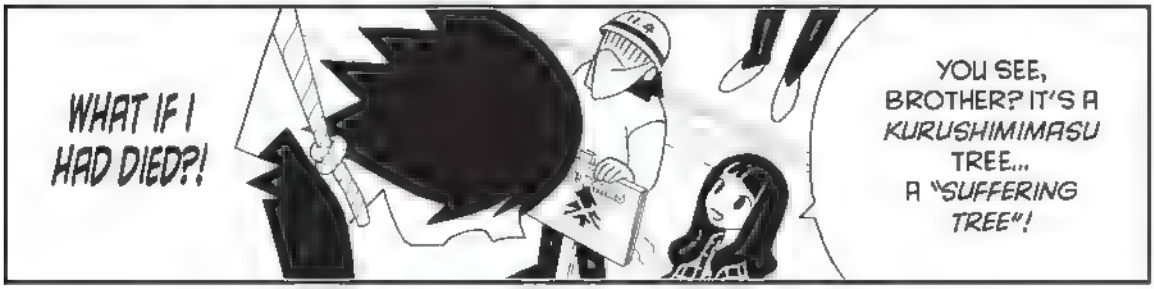
An *engiri tera* ("dissolution/divorce temple") is a temple that is traditionally used as a sanctuary for run-away wives seeking divorces. The various wishes written in the first panel are references to Japanese pop culture, such as the marriage between music producer/songwriter Tetsuya Komura (1958–) and singer Keiko Yamada (1972–), and the often troubled relationship between J-pop star Sayaka Kanda (1986–) and her mother, singer-songwriter Seiko Matsuda (1962–). *Kotachiyo* is the nickname for a Fuji TV program.

I'm Sorry for Being Born on November 4th, page 18

This title is a reference to Osamu Dazai's 1937 novel, *Nijusseiki Kishu* ("A Standard-Bearer of the 20th Century"), in which the protagonist says, "I'm sorry for being born."

Famous people, page 24

The list of people with birthdays around November 4 includes anime director/screenwriter Yoshiyuki Tomino, *Golgo 13* manga creator Takao Saito, and many other celebrities.



Kurushimimasu tree, page 26

"Kurushimimasu Tree" sounds a lot like Christmas tree, which is pronounced "Kurisumasu Tsurii." *Kurushimimasu* literally means "you will suffer." *Tsuri* sounds like the English "tree" but can also be read as "hanging."

Kurushimimasu cards, page 26

The cards are takeoffs on actual consumer finance bank cards.

Assorted references, page 27

Cocco (1977–) is a J-pop singer whose 1997 single "Countdown" is apparently not held in high esteem by Koji Kumeta. "Eating your brain" refers to Hannibal Lecter, the fictional cannibal mastermind of Thomas Harris's novels *Red Dragon*, *The Silence of the Lambs*, and *Hannibal*. NEET stands for "Not currently engaged in Employment, Education, or Training." It's usually used to refer to adult losers who still live with their parents. (See also the reference on page 141.)

Fish scale, page 28

This is a reference to a Japanese saying, *me kara uroko ga ochiru* ("fish scales fall from the eyes"). It means that a person is suddenly "brought to their senses," i.e., awakened to the truth of something.

Dictator's switch, page 29

The *dokusaisha switch* ("dictator's switch") is one of the many strange and marvelous tools used by the title character of the manga and anime *Doraemon*. By using the switch, *Doraemon* can make people disappear leaving no traces of their former existence.

Assorted references, page 30

In addition to people, the tree is decorated with various things that cause suffering (such as childbirth, company "restructuring," which usually entails people getting laid off, etc.). Hidetsugu Aneha (1957–) is a former Japanese architect sentenced to five years in prison for falsifying data on earthquake safety. While he was in the public eye, he also received a lot of media attention to the style of his glasses (see pages 41 and 127).

How Do I Organize This One Space?, page 32

This title is a reference to Sakae Tsuboi's 1952 novel, *Nijushi no Hitomi* ("Twenty-Four Eyes"), in which the main character, a primary school teacher meeting her class for the first time, thinks, "How do I evade these twenty-four eyes?"

Book *obi*, page 35

Obi, which literally means the decorative sash worn around the waist of a kimono, is also used to mean a narrow band that goes around the dust jackets of Japanese books (including manga). They are meant to be disposable and usually contain blurbs and promotional text.

Chikuwa, page 40

A *chikuwa* (literally, "fish ring") is a food shaped like a hollow tube, but is meant to look like a stick of bamboo. It's made from fish paste, egg whites, and seasonings. It's a delicious and cheap food source.

Assorted references, page 40

The Yomiuri Giants is Japan's oldest professional baseball team. "No. 4 representing Japan" refers to Japan's team in the 2006 World Baseball Classic tournament; the first choice for the No. 4 batter, Hideki Matsui, declined, although the role was later filled by Nobuhiko Matsunaka. "The West's graded list is tops" is an obscure sumo reference. "Egawa's one empty day" is a reference to former pitcher and now baseball analyst Suguru Egawa (1955–). "The sea of trees" refers to Aokigahara, the dense woodland around Mt. Fuji, which is infamous throughout Japan as a popular spot for suicides.

Kefu no Ryori, page 41

Kefu no Ryori is a pun on *Kyo no Ryori* ("Today's Cooking"), a TV show on NHK.

Fujiko-chan, page 42

Fujiko Mine, aka Fujiko-chan, is a femme fatale from Monkey Punch's classic manga/anime series *Lupin III*. She's known for hiding weapons within her spacious cleavage.

Duo x Heero, page 47

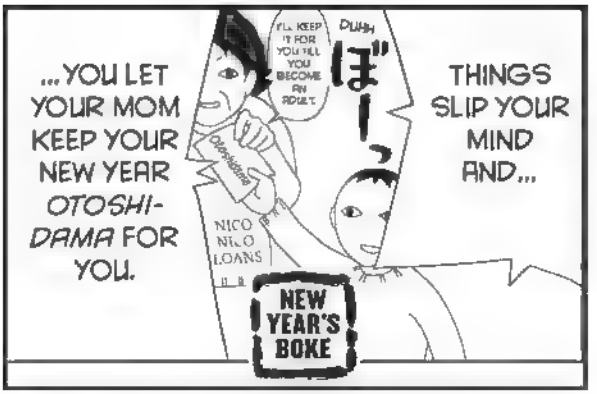
Fujiyoshi's consternation is due to the fact that her *dôjinshi* (self-published comics) have been left out for the garbage collectors. Based on the cover, it's a *yaoi* (guy-on-guy) pairing of Duo Maxwell and Heero Yuy from the 1995 anime series *Mobile Suit Gundam Wing*.

Well, 'Tis Better to Be a Couple Than to Be by Oneself, page 48

This title is a reference to a line in Sakunosuke Oda's 1940 novel, *Meoto Zenzai* ("Bravo for the Couple").

Tsukkomi-boke, page 49

This chapter involves a play on words from Japanese *manzai* comedy, a form of stand-up comedy usually involving two performers—a funny man (*boke*), who says off-the-wall or obtuse things, and a straight man (*tsukkomi*), who reacts with exasperation and berates or slaps the *boke*. The term *boke* comes from the verb *bokeru*, which carries the meaning of "senility" or "airheadedness," while the term *tsukkomi* literally means "a powerful attack," "butting in," or generally inserting or forcing yourself into a situation. *Shogatsu Boke* ("New Year's Boke") is a slang term used to describe people who are "out of it" at the beginning of the New Year (presumably from all the holidays, partying, hustle-bustle, etc.). Misinterpreting the meaning of *tsukkomi* and *boke*, Maria takes it upon herself to go around slapping and correcting all the different kinds of *bokes* in Japan.


...YOU LET YOUR MOM KEEP YOUR NEW YEAR OTOSHI-DAMA FOR YOU.
I'LL KEEP IT FOR YOU TILL YOU BECOME AN ADULT
PUHH
ほ"!
THINGS SLIP YOUR MIND AND...
NICO NICO LOANS
NEW YEAR'S BOKE

Otoshidama, page 53

Otoshidama is the pocket money given out to children on New Year's Day. The money is put into a pretty little envelope made especially for the occasion.

Writing with a brush and ink, page 53

Kakizome is the Japanese custom of practicing calligraphy at the beginning of the New Year (usually when sending New Year's cards—see the notes for page 5). In the original Japanese, Zetsubou-sensei makes an embarrassing misspelling, hence the English translation "Happy New Yar."

Assorted references, page 53

"Receiving fees" refers to the Japanese law that each household with a working television must pay monthly fees to NHK, Japan's national public broadcasting system. However, there is no penalty for not paying, so many (possibly most) people don't pay anything, and the system is sort of a national joke. Autobacs is a chain retailer of automotive parts and accessories. The Print Gocco is a self-contained compact color printer invented in 1977, used for do-it-yourself screen printing. Very popular in Japan in their heyday, they were discontinued in 2008 due to competition from home computers and printers. "Bought a white band" refers to the white "awareness bracelets" sold for charity by the "Make Poverty History" campaign. Hikomaro (1966–) is a Japanese comedian and TV talent. Akiko Yada (1978–) is a Japanese actress who suffered from a scandal in 2006 when the paparazzi took suggestive photos of her on a Hawaiian vacation with "bad boy" actor/musician Manabu Oshio (1978–). Her image was tarnished and she lost several big ad contracts (see also the reference on page 111).

Assorted references, page 56

Pinboke means "out of focus " *Bokenasu* means "idiot" or "blockhead," but if you take the word apart, *boke* means "absentminded" or "senile," and *nasu* means "eggplant." That's why Maria, who often interprets words incorrectly, gets the idea to put an eggplant in her hand when she decides to do her tsukommi.

Assorted references, page 57

Ai Hamanaka is the title character of Tozen Ujiie's frequently dirty gag manga *Shojo Daisei Kateikyoshi Hamanaka Ai* ("Ai Hamanaka, Adult Home Tutor Girl"), which ran in *Weekly Shônen Magazine*, the same magazine where *Sayonara, Zetsubou-sensei* appears. Rin Yuriko, "natural *boke*," is a parody of the idol/model Yuko Ogura (1983–), who is famous for affecting a ditzy, innocent, "cute and dumb" look.

Peace bokes, page 59

Heiwa Boke ("Peace Boke," or "Peace Stupor") is a term that has been used by hawkish Japanese politicians to describe Japanese people who (in keeping with Japan's pacifistic postwar constitution) believe that Japan should not have a true standing army or engage in military activity overseas. The building in panel 6 is the National Diet Building, where the main business of the Japanese government is conducted.

Assorted references, page 60

The "Kyushu Kinkai Gas Fields" are a veiled reference to the Higashi Shinakai (East China Sea) Natural Gas Fields, which lie beneath the ocean floor between Okinawa and China. Japan and China have disputed the ownership of the gas resources. Dr. Mashirito is a mad scientist in Akira Toriyama's 1980–1984 gag manga *Dr. Slump*. Former Japanese prime minister Junichiro Koizumi really did ride a Segway when President Bush gave him one as a gift in 2005. "Playing *Boke*" was originally written in Japanese as *otoboke* ("playing dumb").

I've Always Called That Person a Leftover, page 62

This title is a reference to a line in Natsume Soseki's 1914 novel, *Kokoro* ("Heart"). The original line reads "I've always called that person 'sensei.'"

Fukubukuro, page 63

The word means "lucky bag." It's a Japanese New Year's Day custom for retailers to fill shopping bags with unknown, random contents and sell them for a big discount. Originally, it was a great way for merchants to get rid of excess merchandise, but nowadays, there are some seriously good *fukubukuro* available. *Fukubukuro* are available from all different types of retailers, who fill the bags according to what they specialize in, sometimes with rather iffy contents.

Cicciolina, page 69

Cicciolina, aka Ilona Staller (1951–), is a Hungarian-born Italian porn star and politician.

Okara, page 69

This is a byproduct of making soy milk. It's rich in protein and calcium and is really tasty, and healthy when mixed with other ingredients. It's also used extensively as animal feed.

Assorted references, page 71

The Orix BlueWave was a Japanese pro baseball team owned by the Orix Group. In 2004 it was merged with the Orix Kintetsu Buffaloes to form the Orix Buffaloes. Hisashi Iwakuma (1981–) did not want to pitch for the new merged team, so he was released from his contract and signed with the Tohoko Rakuten Golden Eagles. "Dog heads" refers to Chinese restaurants in Japan that allegedly serve dog meat and to an incident in which a food importer threw an unsold dog's head into a river. He was caught and gave the excuse that he thought it would be good "carp food," hence Maria's comment. The chocolate bars refer to the confectionary company Lotte, a major sponsor of the Japan Skating Federation. They often use skaters in their advertisements and are said to even have a say in the Federation's selection process for skaters (see page 101). The "Osaka City Government" refers to Osaka's infamous deficits, wasteful public spending, and pork-barrel projects. "Embroidery included" refers to an incident in which government personnel used public funds to buy suits, adding some embroidery to justify the purchase by calling the suits "uniforms." "Teikyo Electric Power Company" is a play on the real-life Tokyo Electric Power Company.

Pluthermal program, page 72

"Pluthermal" is a Japanese word made of the English words "plutonium" and "thermal." It's a word invented by the Japanese government and electric utilities to describe a plan to use a new fuel in Japanese nuclear power plants (as described by the spokesperson on page 72).

Plastic surgery *fukubukuro*, page 73

This joke refers to the Ueno Clinic, a popular clinic specializing in circumcisions, a fairly common form of cosmetic surgery among Japanese adult men. Therefore, the "leftovers" from their surgeries would be...

Tsugaru Correspondence School, page 76

This title is a reference to Osamu Dazai's 1994 novel, *Tsugaru*.

Hanten, page 81

A *hanten* is a short jacket usually worn over a kimono.

Assorted tests, page 82

In contrast to the very serious tests listed on page 81, the tests listed here are generally frivolous or of dubious merit. The Hakatakko Certification Test is a test given by the Japanese Culture Kentei Association to promote interest in regional culture. The Nahamage Qualification Trials is a test given to promote tourism in Japan's Oga peninsula. Based on the local custom in which *namahage* (demons or bogeymen) visit people's homes on New Year's Eve looking for "bad children" to scare, the test trains people to dress up and play the role of *namahage*. The Akashi Tako (octopus) Test is a test given in the major fishing port Akashi City, in which people are judged on their knowledge of the fishing industry, fishing culture, and the ability to test the freshness of fish and octopus. The Fabre Exams, named after entomologist Jean-Henri Fabre (1823–1911) and administered by the Japan Association Henri Fabre NPO, test one's knowledge of insects.

AHA! THERE'S A MOUNTAIN OF EXAMS I CAN GET QUALIFICA-TIONS FOR!
I'VE GOT TO BE-COME A STUDENT AGAIN!
PRACTICE AND LEARN
Akiko
Natsumi
Megumi

Assorted references, page 83

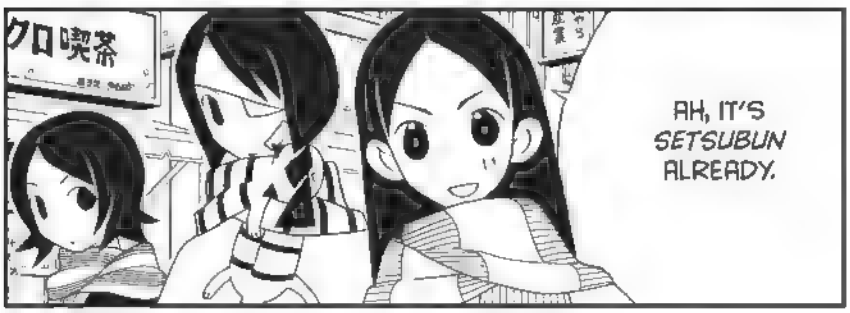
"Practice and Learn" is written in Japanese as *Keiko to Manabu*, the title of a continuing-education magazine that provides information on various courses, schools, and qualifications. However, Kumeta uses it as a pun on the name of the playboy actor Manabu Oshio (1978–), who has gone out with many different women, including women named Keiko, Megumi Yokoyama, Natsumi Abe, Akiko Yada (see notes for page 53), etc. The Time Schedule Qualifying Test is a test on how to save time on train and transportation schedules by finding the fastest routes.

Assorted references, page 88

The Sanzu River, or "River of Three Crossings," is a river that the dead must cross in Japanese Buddhist tradition, similar to the River Styx. One common way of committing suicide in Japan is to burn charcoal briquets in an enclosed space and suffocate on the smoke.

Ah, silence..., page 90

Ah, Mugon... ("Ah, silence") is a reference to Victor Hugo's 1862 novel, *Les Miserables*, originally translated in Japanese under the title *Aamujô* ("Ah, cruelty").



Setsubun, page 91

This festival is celebrated on February 3. One of the main rituals is the "*mamemaki* ceremony" (literally, bean-throwing ceremony) to drive away the evil spirits. People scatter soybeans out the door while shouting, "Demons out!" and soybeans are thrown in while saying, "Good luck in!" Roasted soybeans are also eaten as a good-luck snack. Another ritual related to Setsubun, *ehomaki*, is described on page 92.

Things that shouldn't have been said, page 93

The quotes are references to unwise comments made by various Japanese media figures.

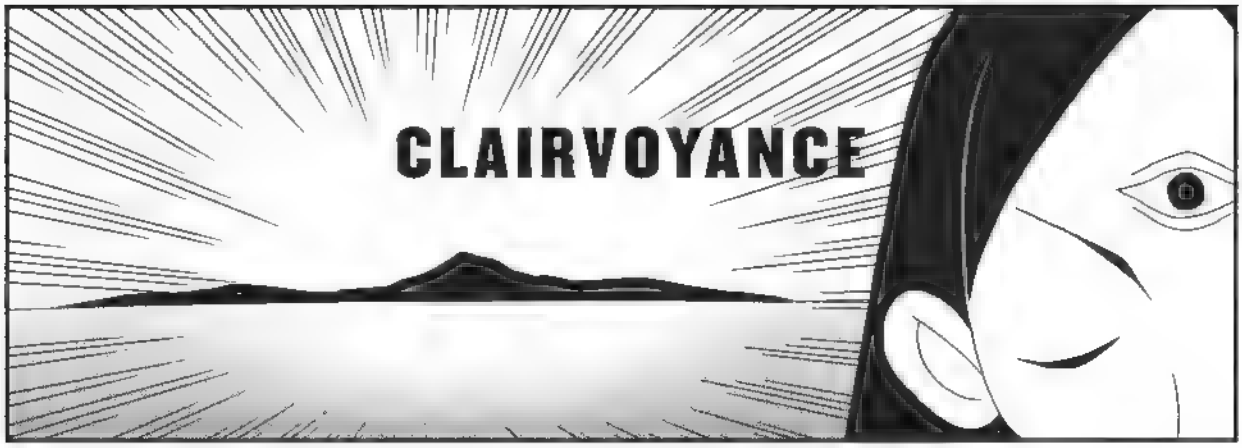
Anatahan Island, page 95

This refers to a famous incident in which a dozen Japanese merchant seamen were shipwrecked on the barren volcanic island of Anatahan in 1944. They found a man and a woman living there alone. By the time they were rescued in 1951, five men had died in fights over the woman. The story became the basis of a 1953 movie, *The Saga of Anatahan*.

· REAL INTENTIONS TOWARD OTHER COUNTRIES
· GAY OR STRAIGHT?
· THE SALES IN JAPAN FOR THE XBOX 360
· THE HAPPENING AT ANATAHAN ISLAND
BY USING A FUTOMAKI ROLL, YOU DON'T HAVE TO TALK ABOUT THINGS YOU DON'T WANT TO.

Real intentions toward other countries, page 95

The head on the left looks suspiciously like former Japanese prime minister Junichiro Koizumi (see notes for page 10).

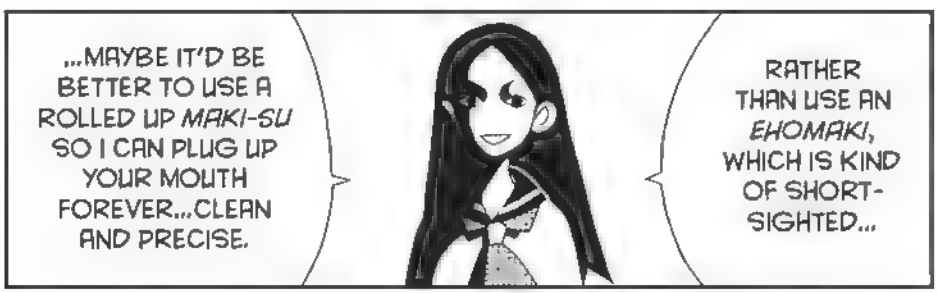


Clairvoyance, page 99

When Kafuka uses the word "clairvoyance" after Chiri starts magically seeing things beyond her realm, Usui snidely remarks, "I bet you set up this whole scary scene just so you could make that pun!" In Japanese, *senrigan* ("clairvoyance") is written with three characters that can also be read as *Chirigan* ("Chin's eyes"). It's all because the *kanji* for "thousand" can be read as either *sen* or *chi*. A similar *sen/chi* pun appears in the name of the heroine of Hayao Miyazaki's anime *Spirited Away*.

Assorted references, page 101

"T.A." is short for Ami Tokito (1987–), a former child actor and J-pop idol. She is often photographed wearing glasses. "The anchorwoman" is Yuko Aoki, a Japanese TV announcer who, in 2006, was rumored to be living with a married TV producer. "What's inside the soup" refers to a plotline involving drugged soup in Yûsei Matsui's 2005 manga *Majin Tantei Nôgami Neuro* (*Demon Detective Neuro Nôgami*). The "person who knows how to read the Poneglyph language" is the historian Nico Robin in the manga *One Piece*. "Princess Knight" (literally, *Ribon no Kishi*, "Knight of Ribbons") is a reference to Osamu Tezuka's classic manga of the same name, about a princess who disguises herself as a boy.


...MAYBE IT'D BE BETTER TO USE A ROLLED UP MAKI-SU SO I CAN PLUG UP YOUR MOUTH FOREVER...CLEAN AND PRECISE.
RATHER THAN USE AN EHOMAKI, WHICH IS KIND OF SHORT-SIGHTED...

Maki-su, page 102

A *maki-su* is a small bamboo or reed mat used to roll sushi.

Chocolates Returned Without Hesitation, page 104

This title is a reference to *Oshiminiaku Ai wa Ubau* ("Love Robs Without Hesitation"), a novel by Takeo Arishima (1878–1923). This chapter refers to Japanese Valentine's Day customs; on Valentine's Day, girls are supposed to give chocolates to guys they like, and on March 14 ("White Day"), guys are supposed to return the favor with gifts for the girls, such as white chocolate. Evidently, though, a lot can happen in the one-month waiting period.

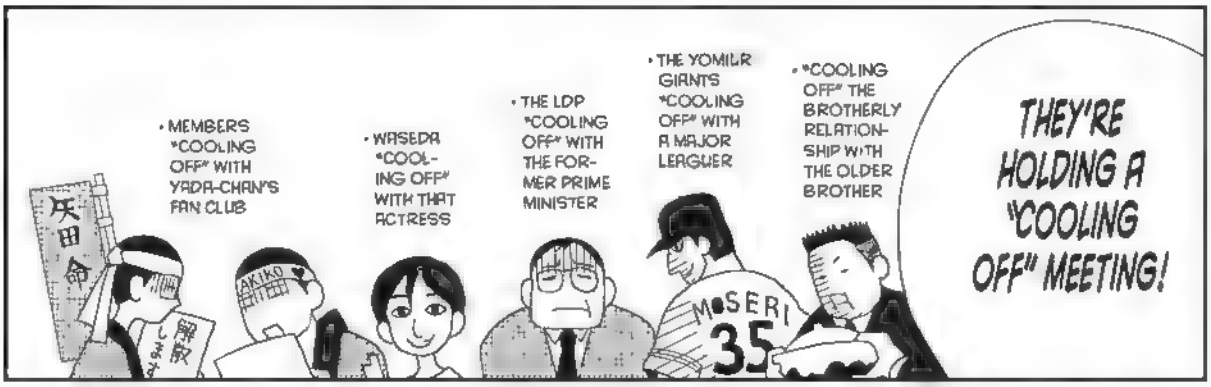
Love just cancels itself out, page 109

The diagram in the lower left is a twisted web of Japanese celebrities who've had affairs with one another, including Manabu Oshio (the male O.M.), Megumi Okina (the female O.M.), Natsumi Abe of the J-pop group Morning Musume, and Susumu Fujita (president/CEO of the online ad agency CyberAgent, Inc.).

Assorted references, page 110

"Revival of the beef bowl" refers to the problems of the Yoshinoya Beef Bowl restaurant chain, which lost popularity following the mad cow disease scare in 2006 (see also page 127) "Embryonic stem cells" refers to the 2005–2006 controversy surrounding the Korean biotechnologist Hwang Woo-Suk (1953–), whose breakthroughs in stem cell research were later found to be a hoax. *Yutori Kyoiku* ("relaxed education") is a 2002 education initiative aimed at reducing stress in students and giving them more outlets for self-expression by shortening the Japanese school week from six days to five days (see page 113), reducing workload, and offering more electives. Some people blame it for a decline in Japanese academic abilities. "Hanshin" refers to the Hanshin Electric Railway Co., owners of the Hanshin Tigers baseball team. There were plans to list Hanshin on the Japanese stock exchange, but they were canceled when fans protested. Masahiro Kawai (1964–) is a former Japanese baseball player and now coach. Hayao Miyazaki (1941–) is a famous Japanese animator who "retired" in 1997 from his company Studio Ghibli, only to break his retirement several times to work on new films. "610,000 yen" refers to a 2005 incident when Mizuho Securities Co. made a data error in a stock sell order, entering a client's order to "sell one share of J-Com Co. at 610,000 yen" as "sell 610,000 shares at 1 yen each." Mizuho Securities lost 40 billion yen due to the mistake. Bobby Ologun is a Nigerian K-1 wrestler who became a popular TV personality in Japan, despite a scandal when it was discovered that he had lied about his age (claiming to be born in 1973, when actually, according to his driver's license, he was born in 1966). The Chubu Centrair International Airport was opened in Japan in 2005, despite criticism of the made-up

name "Centrair." "Permission to join Keidanren" refers to the *Nippon Kaidanren* (Japan Business Federation). The IT corporation LiveDoor tried to join the Keidanren, but their attempt was cut short when LiveDoor was accused of securities fraud in one of Japan's biggest corporate criminal cases of 2006. "Alliances between TV stations and IT companies" refers to the planned business alliance between LiveDoor and Fuji TV, which was canceled for the same reason.


• MEMBERS *COOLING OFF" WITH YADA-CHAN'S FAN CLUB
• WASEDA *COOLING OFF" WITH THAT ACTRESS
• THE LDP *COOLING OFF" WITH THE FORMER PRIME MINISTER
• THE YOMIURI GIANTS *COOLING OFF" WITH A MAJOR LEAGUER
• *COOLING OFF" THE BROTHERLY RELATIONSHIP WITH THE OLDER BROTHER
AKIKO
MOSERI 35
THEY'RE HOLDING A "COOLING OFF" MEETING!

Assorted references, page 111

"Cooling off the brotherly relationship" refers to the public dispute between two popular sumo wrestlers, brothers Takanohana and Wakanohana, as to who was going to take over the honorable role of "chief mourner" at the funeral of their sumo wrestler father in 2005.

Assorted references, page 112

It's hard to quit the motorcycle gang lifestyle, particularly in Japan. Nobuhiko Matsunaka (1973–) is a Japanese baseball player who, in 2006, signed a seven-year contract with the Fukuoka SoftBank Hawks. Paman, aka Perman, is a reluctant superhero in the classic manga *Paman* by Fujiko F. Fujio. "Buying brand names" refers to the phenomenon of people who buy expensive brand items, use them for a while, and then sell them at pawnshops to get money to buy the next hot brand item. Due to pushy salespeople, it's notoriously difficult to cancel a newspaper subscription in Japan. ODA stands for "Official Development Assistance," a category of development aid provided to poor countries by rich ones (not only by Japan). Kappa Ebisen is a popular Japanese snack food (a sort of shrimp-flavored crackers) that had a famous advertising slogan *Yamerarenai, tomaranai* ("Can't quit, can't stop").

The Story of Jiro, page 118

"The Story of Jiro" (*Jiro Monogatari*) is the name of a novel by Kojin Shimomura (1884–1955).

Second opinion, page 120

Throughout this chapter, the term "second opinion" is used in English in the original Japanese edition. It's an English loan word, which is why the characters go out of their way to define it on page 121.

NOZOMU ITOSHIKI'S OLDER BROTHER
MIKOTO ITOSHIKI
WOULD YOU PLEASE STOP CALLING ME BY THAT OTHER NAME?
MY NAME IS MIKOTO ITOSHIKI.
OH, HELLO, ZETSUMEI-SENSEI.

Zetsumei-sensei, page 121

Like his younger brother, Nozomu, whose name can be misread as *zetsubou* ("despair"), school doctor Mikoto Itoshiki has a name with an unfortunate double meaning. His name can be misread as *zetsumei*, which means "to die," hence the nickname "Dr. Death."

Sanji x Zolo, page 125

Sanji and Zolo are characters from the manga *One Piece*.

Assorted references, page 126

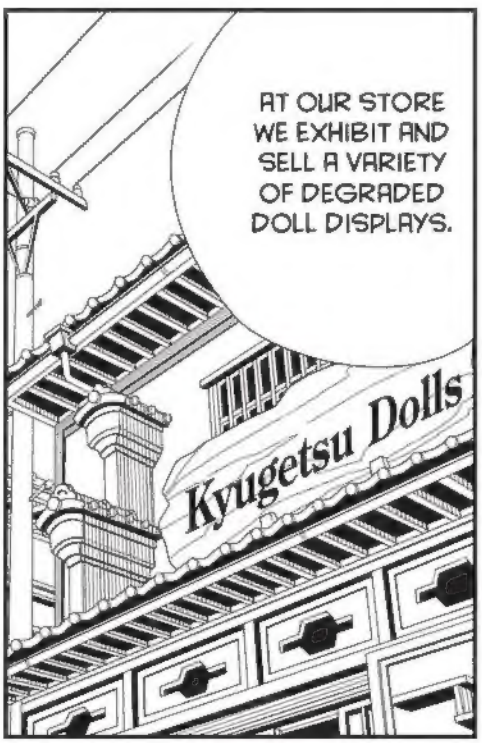
The Japan Teachers Union, founded in 1947, is Japan's oldest and largest union of teachers and school staff. Arthur Antunes Coimbra (1953–), aka Zico, is a former Brazilian soccer player and coach. He coached the Japanese national team from 2002 to 2006, and is known in Japan as *soccer no kamisama* ("the god of soccer"). Hidetoshi Nakata (1977–) is a famous Japanese soccer player. ("Nakata-shi" is a very formal, respectful way of saying his name.) The "Kitasenju Club" is the name of a *hitotsuma* ("someone else's wife") club, i.e., a gentleman's club with an adultery theme.

Assorted references, page 127

Yoshizumi Ishihara and Masamitsu Morita are TV weather reporters. Takafumi Horie (1972–) is a Japanese enterpreneur who founded the Internet portal LiveDoor (see notes for page 110). When LiveDoor was investigated for securities fraud in 2006, Horie resigned as CEO but was indicted on charges. Ryoji Miyauchi was LiveDoor's former CFO, and was also indicted. *Mezamishi TV* and *Yajiuma* are Japanese news/infotainment shows that run in competing time slots every weekday morning; both have fortune-telling segments. Piko and Don Konishi are competing TV fashion commentators. Bae Yong Joon (1972–) is a popular South Korean actor who often wears trendy glasses, although Hidetsugu Aneha (see page 30) also had an interesting style. Takefuji and Aiful are Japanese consumer finance companies.

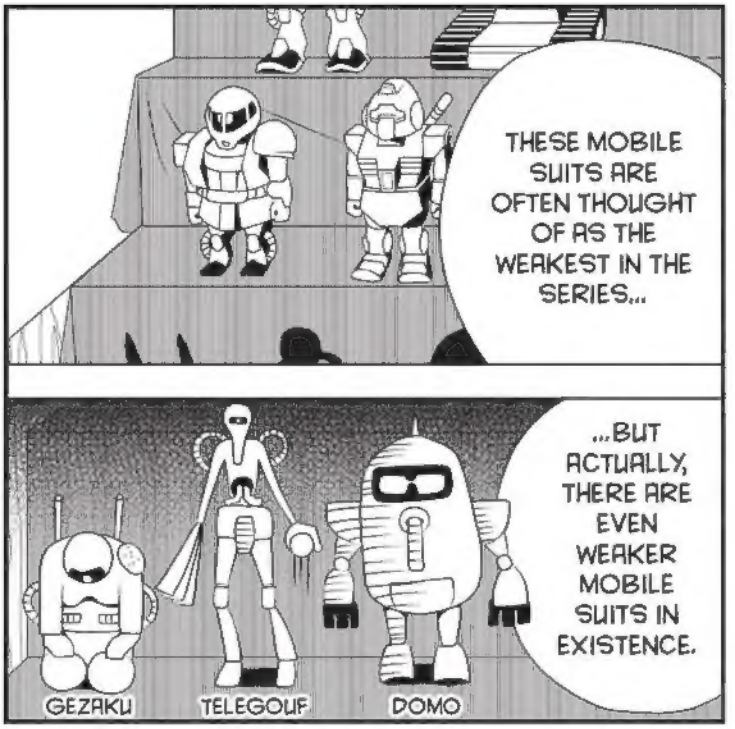
Life Is Like a One-Tier Doll Display, page 132

This title is a reference to the 1927 novel *Aru Aho no Issho* ("A Fool's Life") by Ryunosuke Akutagawa. This chapter in general refers to the Japanese custom of *Hinamatsuri* ("Girl's Day"), a holiday on March 3, in which people display traditional dolls on a tiered display.



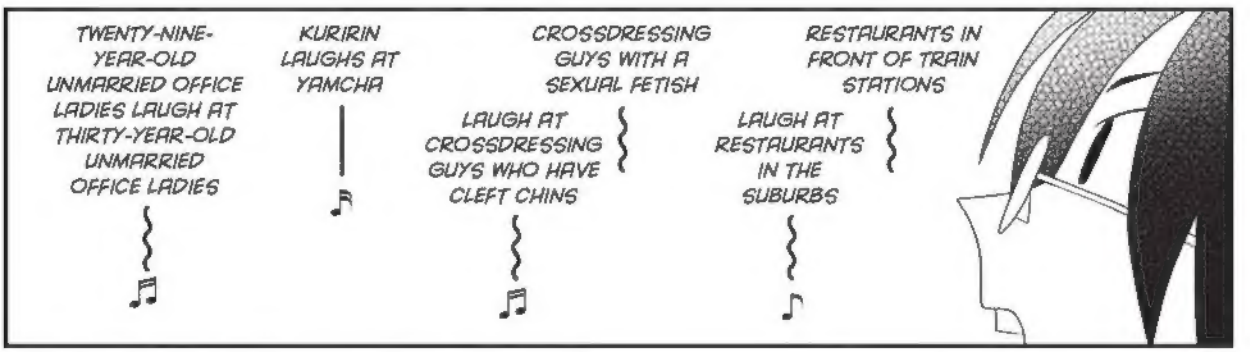
Kyugetsu, page 139

Kyugetsu is a traditional Japanese doll store that's been in business since 1830. However, the Kyugetsu store in this story is spelled with different *kanji* that, although pronounced the same, mean "suffering month" or "destitute month."


THESE MOBILE SUITS ARE OFTEN THOUGHT OF AS THE WEAKEST IN THE SERIES...
...BUT ACTUALLY, THERE ARE EVEN WEAKER MOBILE SUITS IN EXISTENCE.
GEZAKU
TELEGOUF
DOMO

Assorted references, page 142

Panels 2 and 3 display an assortment of extremely obscure (and weak) mecha from the *Mobile Suit Gundam* anime and model franchise. *Bakusho On-Air Battle*, launched in 1999, is a TV show in which young comedians compete for laughs on-air (alone, in skits, or in *manzai* pairs).


TWENTY-NINE-YEAR-OLD UNMARRIED OFFICE LADIES LAUGH AT THIRTY-YEAR-OLD UNMARRIED OFFICE LADIES
KURIRIN LAUGHS AT YAMCHA
CROSSDRESSING GUYS WITH A SEXUAL FETISH
LAUGH AT CROSSDRESSING GUYS WHO HAVE CLEFT CHINS
RESTAURANTS IN FRONT OF TRAIN STATIONS
LAUGH AT RESTAURANTS IN THE SUBURBS

"Kuririn Laughs at Yamcha," page 143

Kuririn is one of the weaker characters in Akira Toriyama's 1984–1995 martial arts manga *Dragon Ball*. Yamcha, however, is even weaker.

Ishhikoro boshi, page 147

The *ishikoro boshi* (*ishikoro* hat) is a gadget in the manga *Doraemon* that causes the wearer to go unnoticed by everyone.

Duke Fleed, page 148

Duke Fleed is the name of the hero in the 1975 sci-fi mecha-anime *UFO Robo Grandizer*. The last survivor of his doomed planet, he escapes to earth and pretends to be a normal human with a human name, although it's not "Hiroshi Maigo."

A thousand *li,* page 153

Li is a Chinese unit of measurement equal to approximately 2.5 miles.

The Restaurant of Many Condolence Calls, page 162

This is a reference to the novel *The Restaurant of Many Orders* by Kenji Miyazawa (1896–1933).